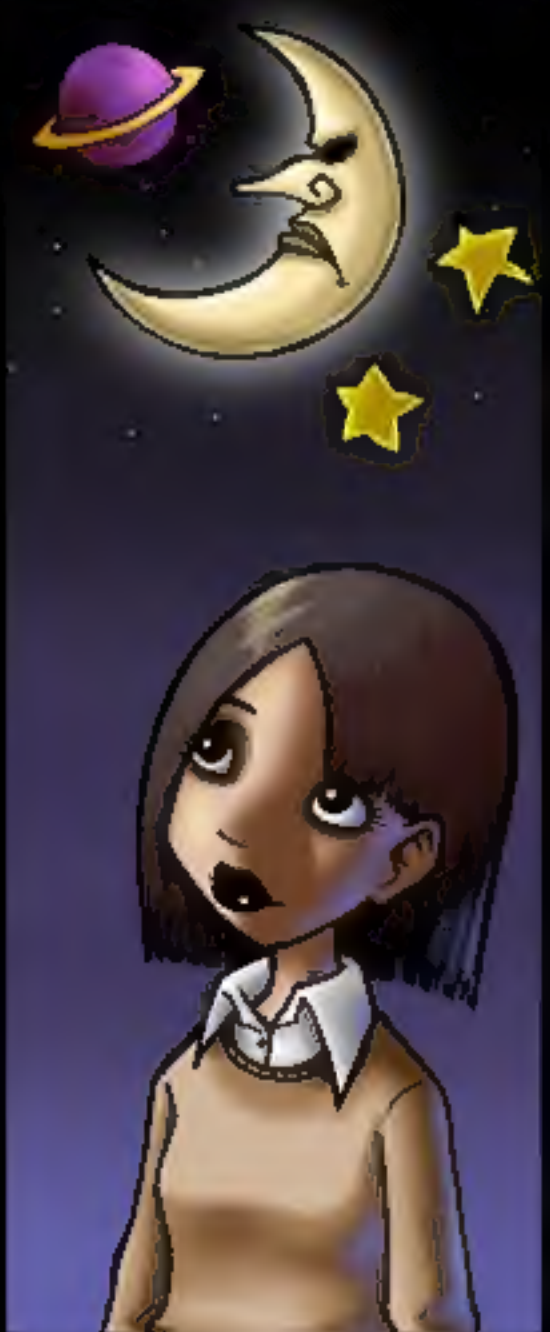
Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 11:

Dobranoc, Gamma



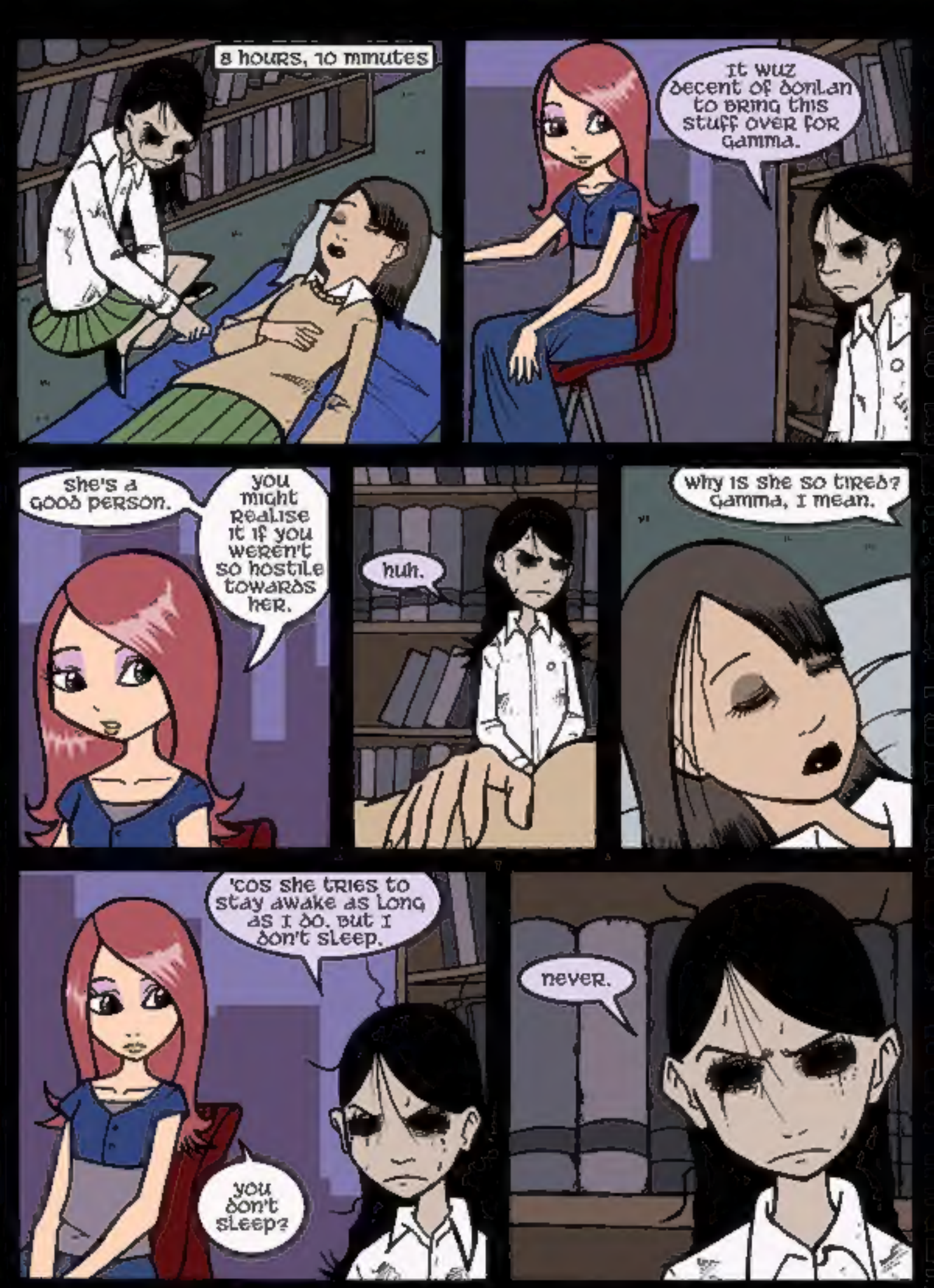

0 hours, 3 minutes
tic
toc
tic
toc

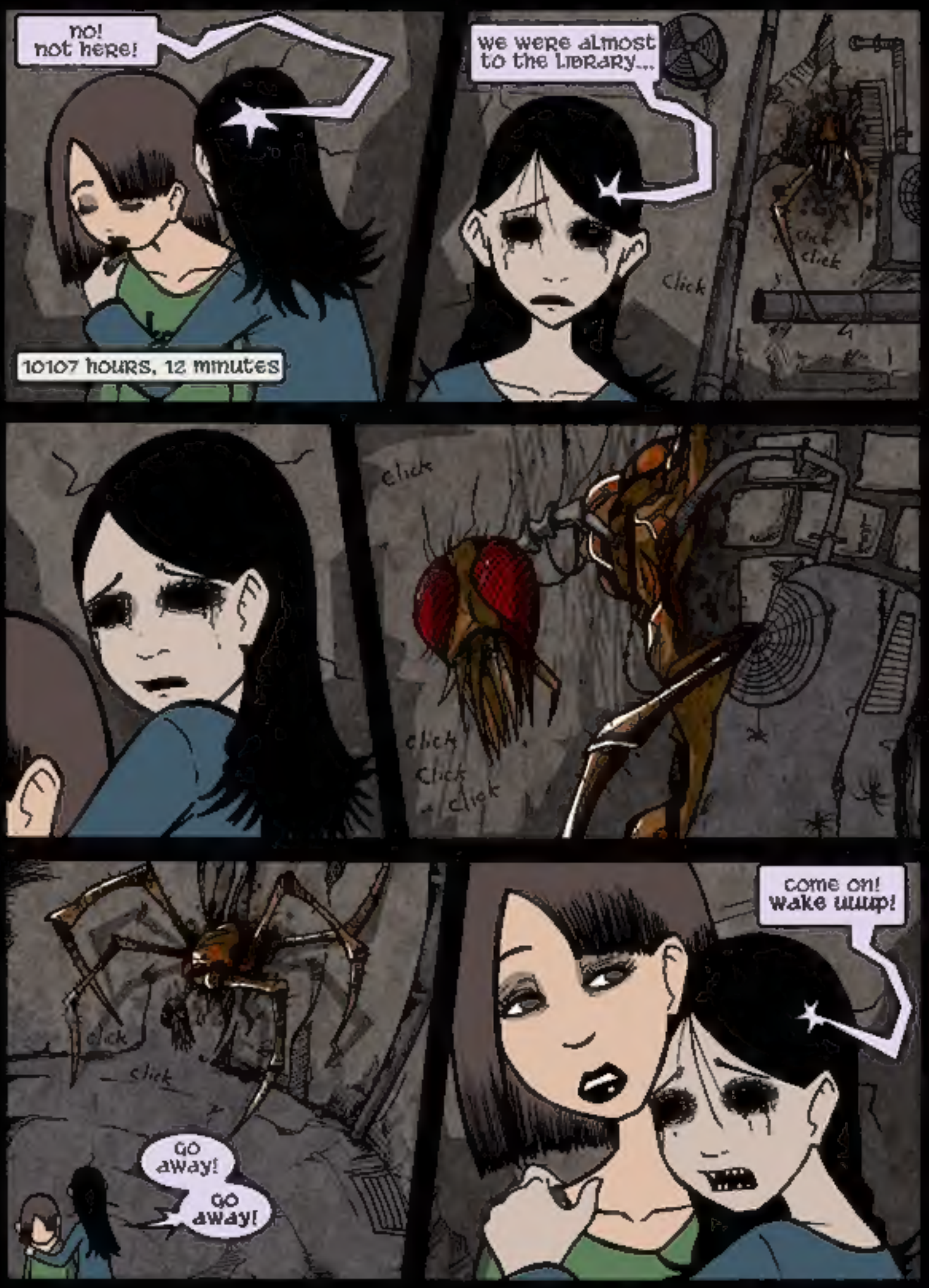

Jak się czujesz?
dużo lepiej, dzięki.
snap!
come on!
tic toc
tic toc
clatter!

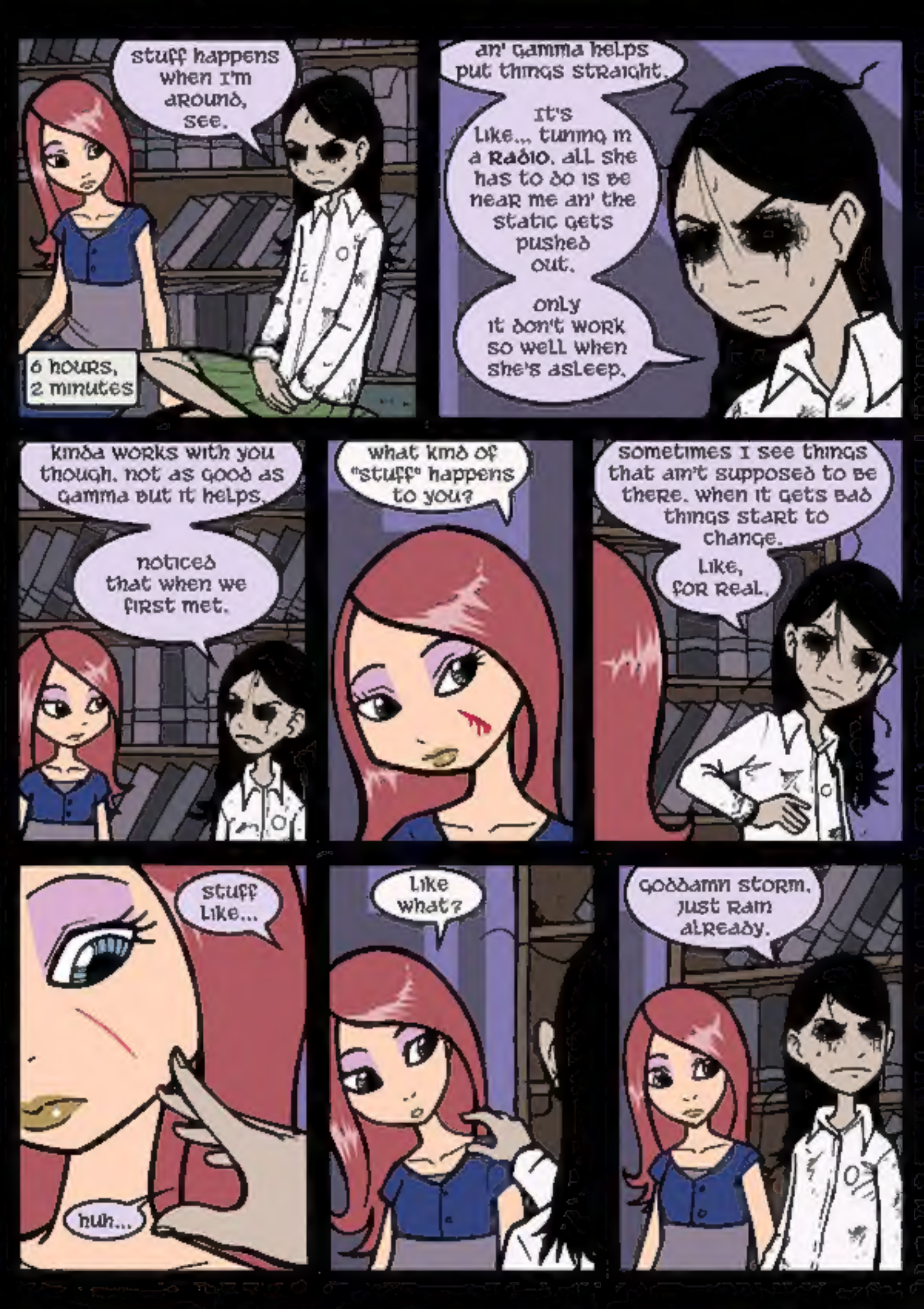

9 hours, 21 minutes
Knowledge is Power
ugh, it's so hot today.
the air is all sticky.
that's 'cos a storm's brewin'. a biggun.
hello again, zimmy, gamma.
what do you guys want?


nunna yer business, nose! I gotta talk to carver.
nose?!
great, this again. you're such a butt!
ahahehe! butt!
uh...
is everything alright?
you gotta help, carver! she needs to sleep.
?


11403 hours, 12 minutes


8 hours, 10 minutes
It wuz decent of Donlan to bring this stuff over for Gamma.
she's a good person.
you might realise it if you weren't so hostile towards her.
huh.
why is she so tired? Gamma, I mean.
'cos she tries to stay awake as long as I do. but I don't sleep.
you don't sleep?
never.


no! not here!
10107 hours, 12 minutes
we were almost to the library...
click
click click
click
click
click click
click
click
go away!
go away!
come on! wake uuup!

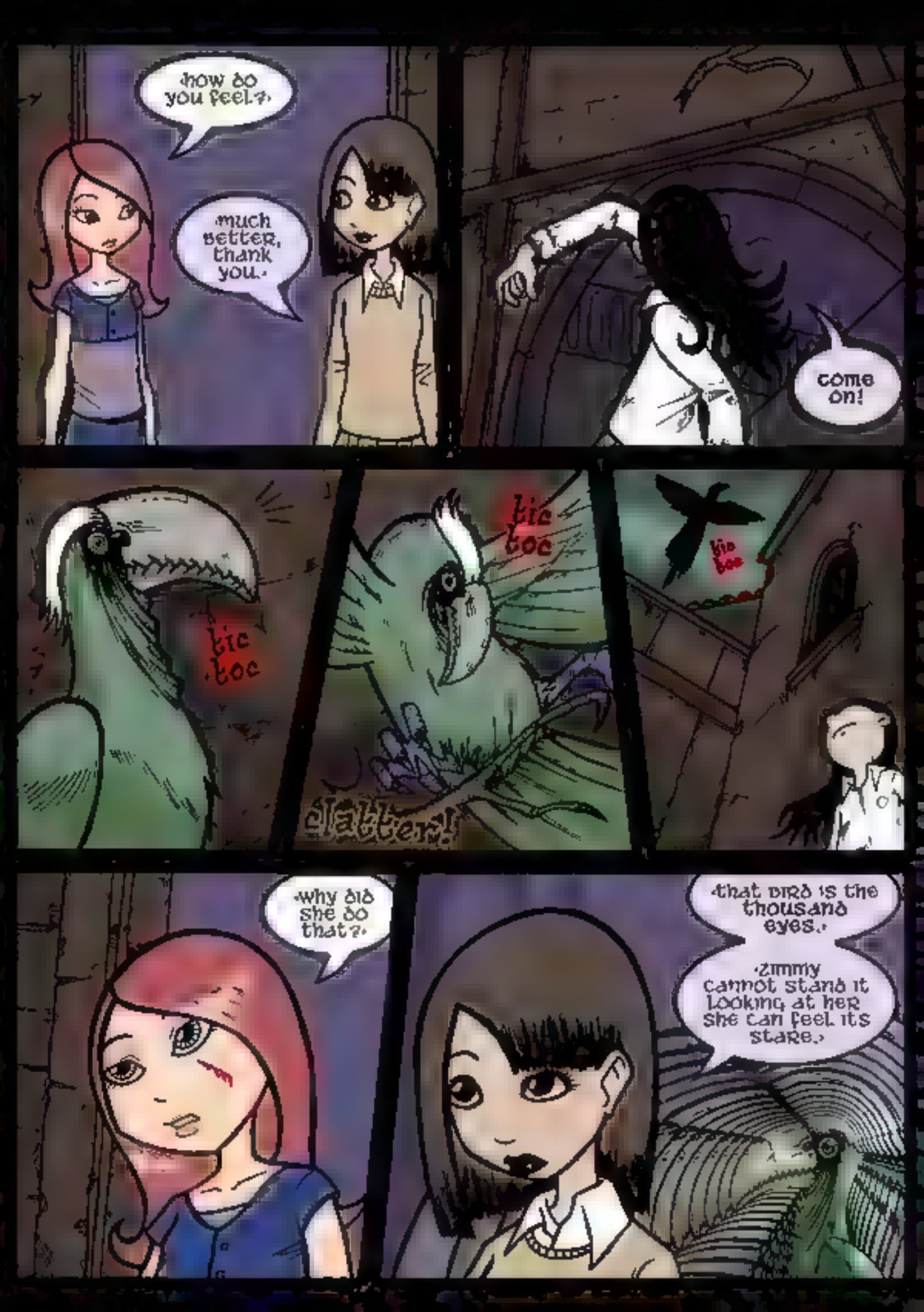

stuff happens when I'm around, see.
6 hours, 2 minutes
an' gamma helps put things straight.
It's like... tunnin in a radio. all she has to do is be near me an' the static gets pushed out.
only it don't work so well when she's asleep.
kinda works with you though. not as good as gamma but it helps.
noticed that when we first met.
what kind of "stuff" happens to you?
sometimes I see things that am't supposed to be there. when it gets bad things start to change.
like, for real.
stuff like...
huh...
like what?
goddamn storm. just rain already.


0384 hours, 38 minutes
guh
gurgle
how do you do that?
I don't know.


huh?!
what the god-damn
I ain't going back to no school!
this is unlike the other schools you have attended.
there you will have a place to live, and the freedom to do as you will.
and, of course, miss czarnecki can come too.
she will be safe there.
what are they saying, zimmy?
zimmy?


zimmy?
0 hours, 6 minutes
ugh... no, this already happened.
it
it already...
this isn't real!
it already happened!
the storm is about to break.
we must go outside.


0 hours, 4 minutes
tic
toc
come on.


how do you feel?
much better, thank you.
come on!
tic toc
tic toc
tic toc
clatter!
why did she do that?
that bird is the thousand eyes.
zimmy cannot stand it looking at her she can feel its stare.


come on! Rain!
Rain you bast
CRACKOOM!
0 hours, 0 minutes
plip
tsssss


snaaa
hahaha!
whoop! haha!
kick
splat


She says "thanks"
for sitting with us.
well, I'm not sure I understand but...
she's welcome.

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 12:

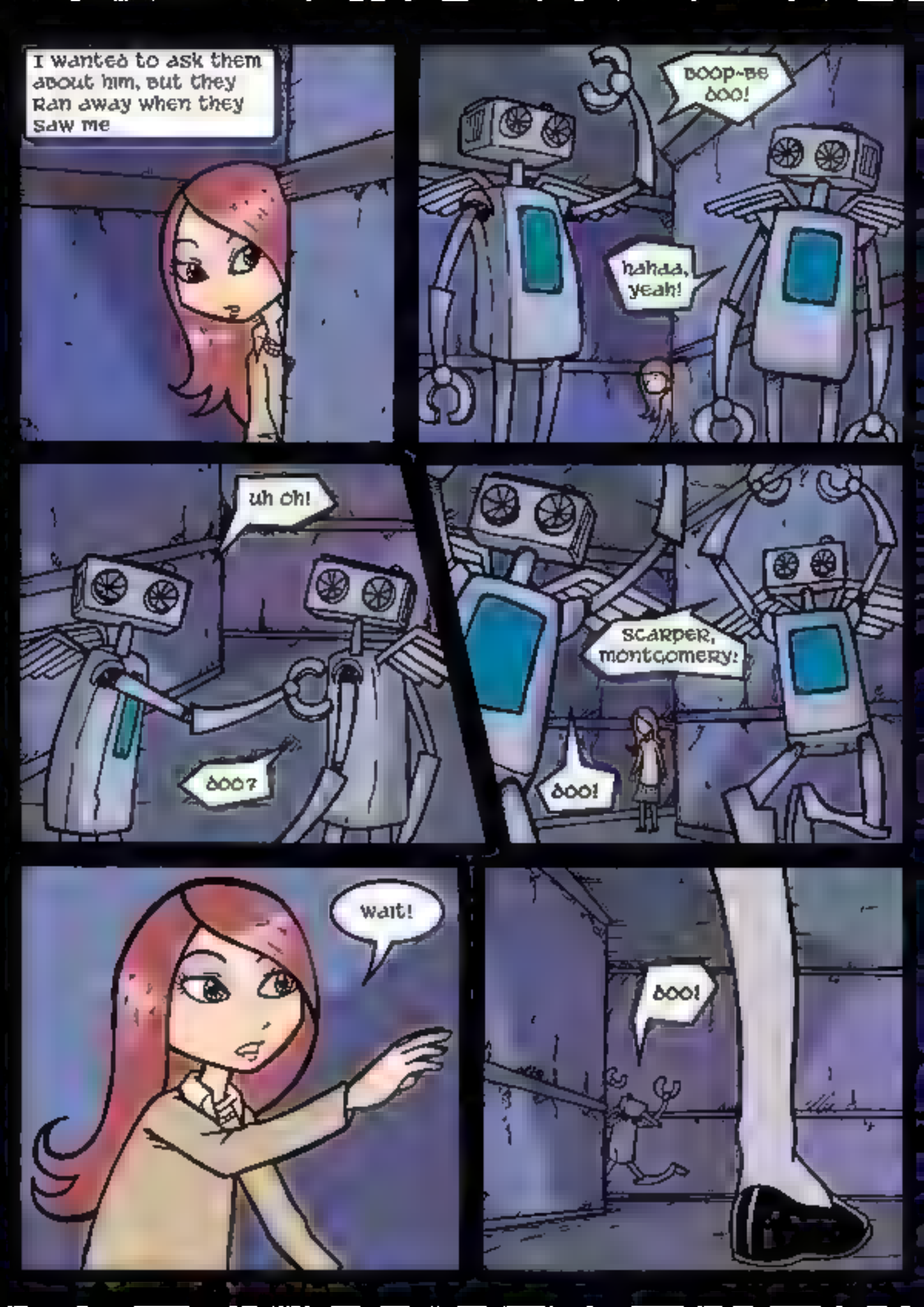
Mainly Involves Robots

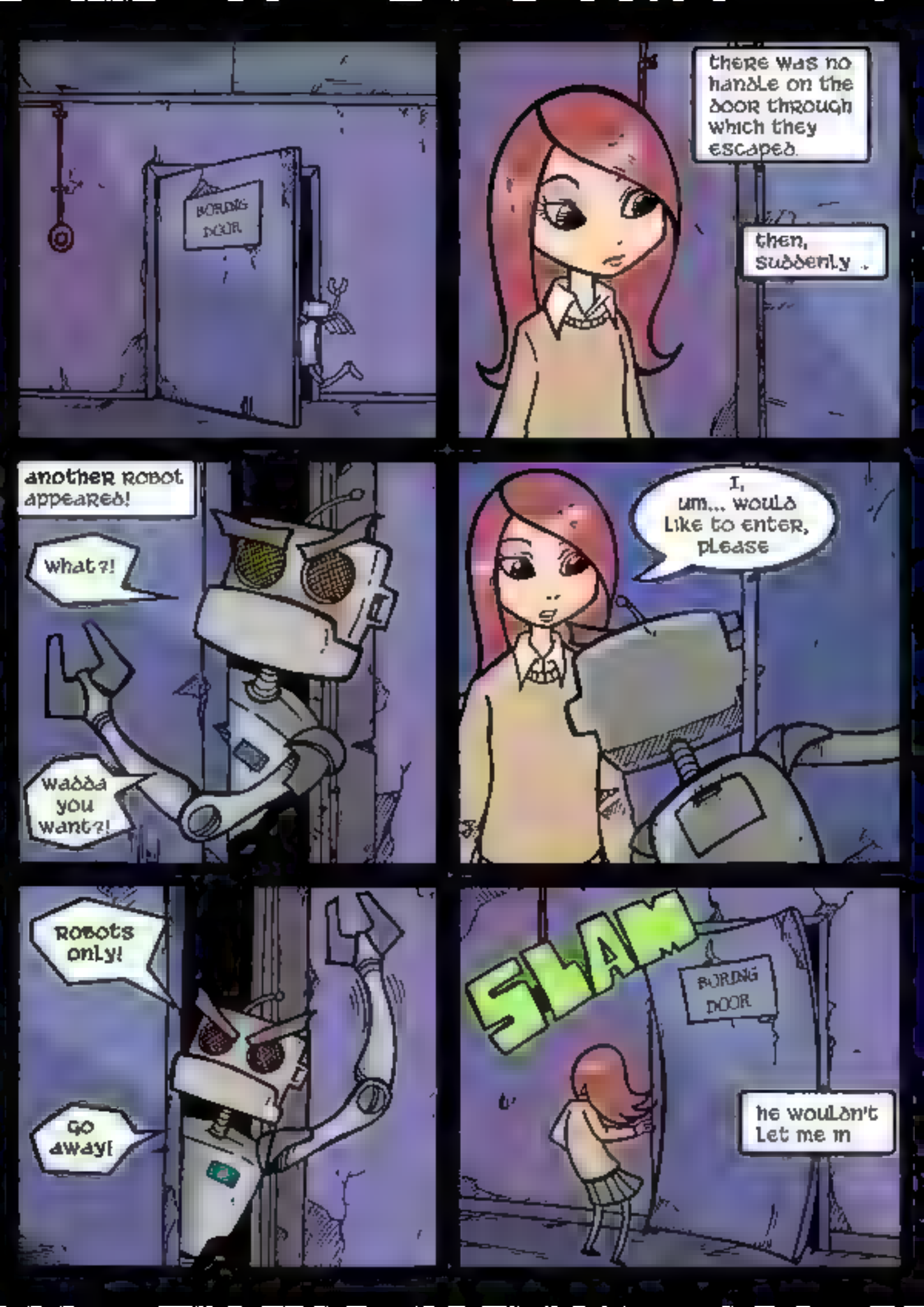



2F
kati
hi annie! take a look at this!
I figured out how shadow 2 talks!
see, it turns out he isn't really a shadow at all.
he has a very slight mass on the molecular level that is so thin it might as well be a layer of light
or dark, in his case.
he can make a noise by vibrating on a surface
that's why the noises he makes are different depending on what surface he is on
DWAAH!
FNAR!


but watch this!
hello annie!
BUZZ
hello annie!
kat, that's wonderful! he even sounds like you!
yeah, he's really smart too. he's remembered a bunch of stuff already.
he understands words, but not how to make the sounds.
we could probably teach him english real fast.


2F
oh! did you need to tell me something? you came rushing in here...
yes! on my way over I saw..
ROBOTS!
we have robots all over the place, annie there's one over there.
nelloooo!
yes, but these were proper robots!
www..
they looked just like... robot. remember, from the bridge?

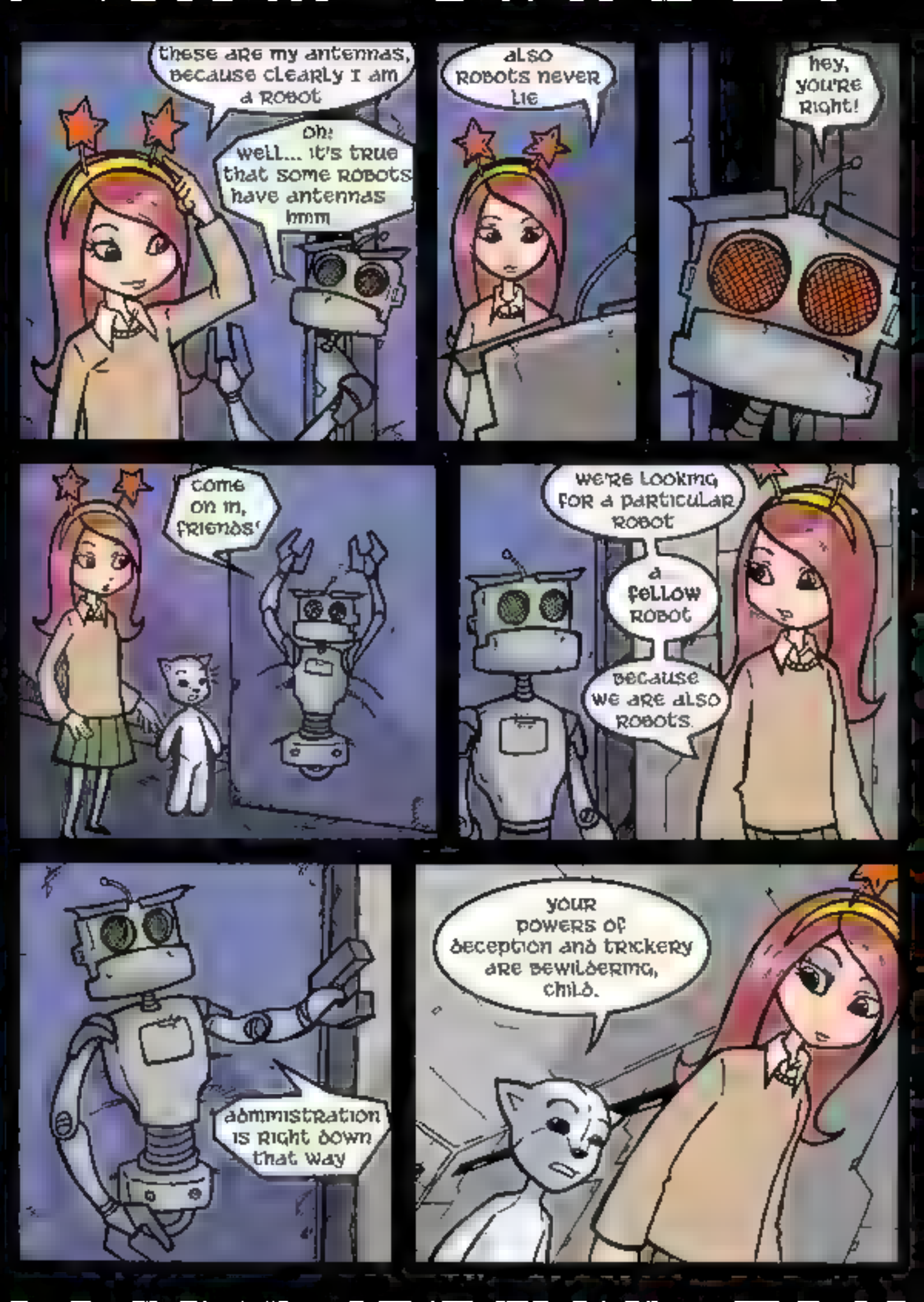

I wanted to ask them about him, but they ran away when they saw me
boop-be doo!
hahaa, yeah!
uh oh!
doo?
scarper, montgomery!
doo!
wait!
doo!

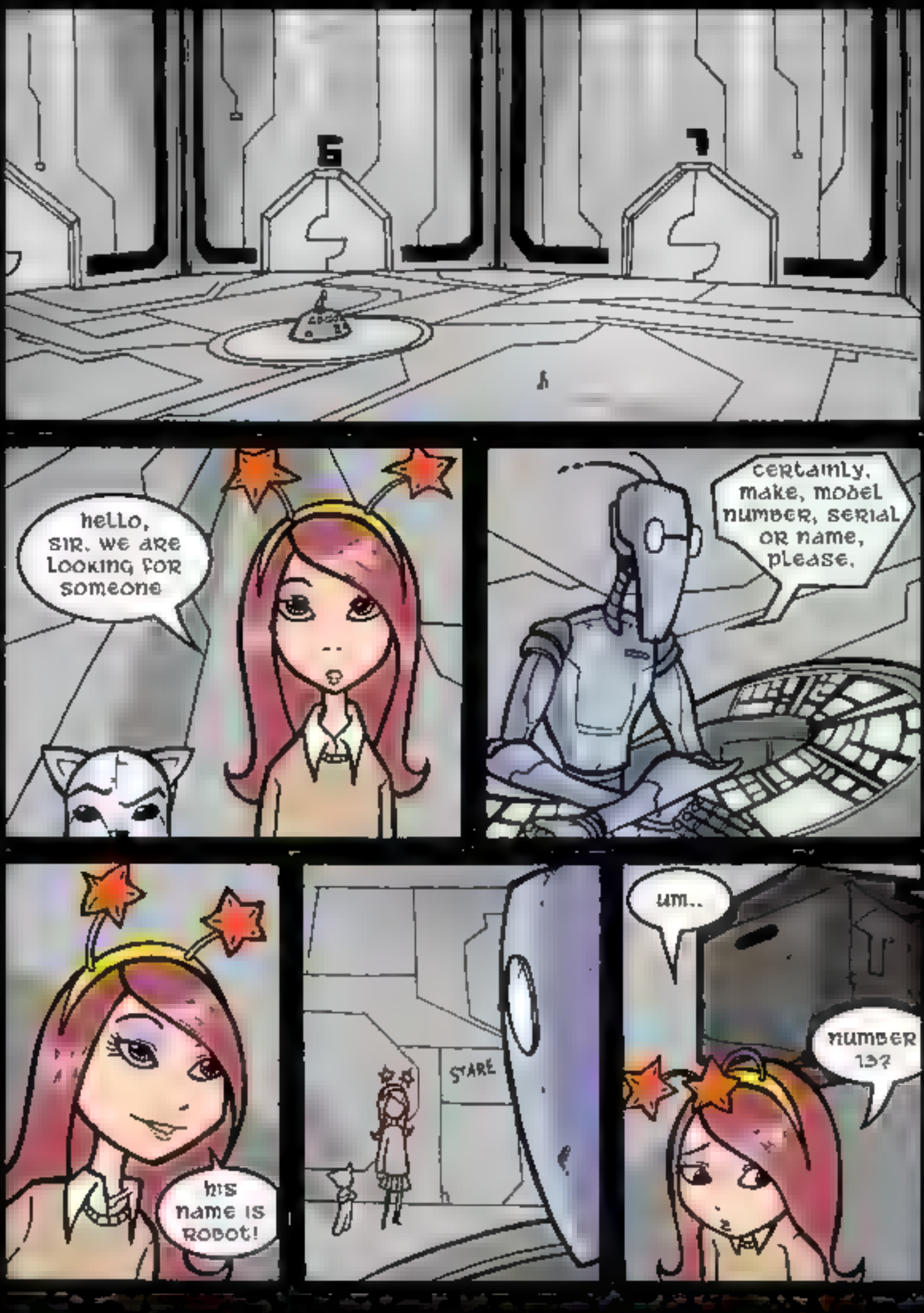

BORING DOOR
there was no handle on the door through which they escaped.
then, suddenly ..
another robot appeared!
what?!
wadda you want?!
I, um... would like to enter, please
robots only!
go away!
SLAM
BORING DOOR
he wouldn't let me in


what are you thinking, annie? mr. eglamore already said your robot was disposed of...
I don't think it's worth getting into trouble again.
he wasn't my robot, kat. he was his own person
and because of me...
I should at least find out what happened to him, he was ..
friend.
yes.

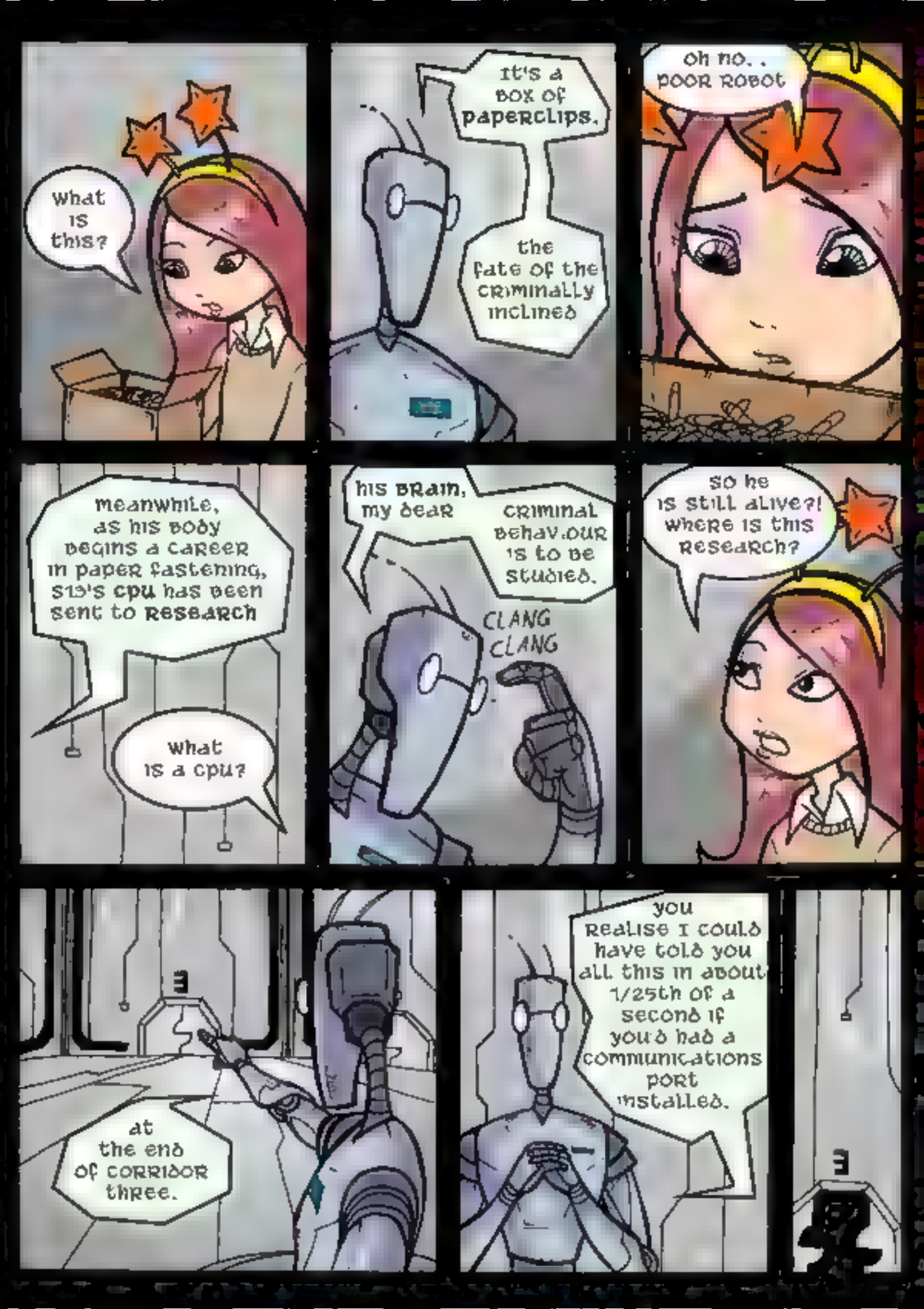

besides, if we can get in and out quickly, no one need ever know
what do you say?
I'd come if I could, annie, but I made such a mess in here that my mum said I couldn't leave until I tidy it up.
yes, I was... wondering about that
hah, oh well. you'll need to think of a way to get past that door-bot.
oh, I think I can put together a clever disguise.
and bring some help.


a short while later.
and what, exactly, do you need me for?
don't think I've forgotten about my lockpicks, Reynarôme.
It's about time you did something useful
fine, fine. as long as it gets me out of that blasted box
here we are
what?!
wadda you want?!
hello. I would like to enter, please.
robots onl...
what's that on your head?


these are my antennas, because clearly I am a robot
oh! well... it's true that some robots have antennas hmm
also robots never lie
hey, you're right!
come on in, friends!
we're looking for a particular robot
a fellow robot
because we are also robots.
aahmmistration is right down that way
your powers of deception and trickery are bewildering, child.

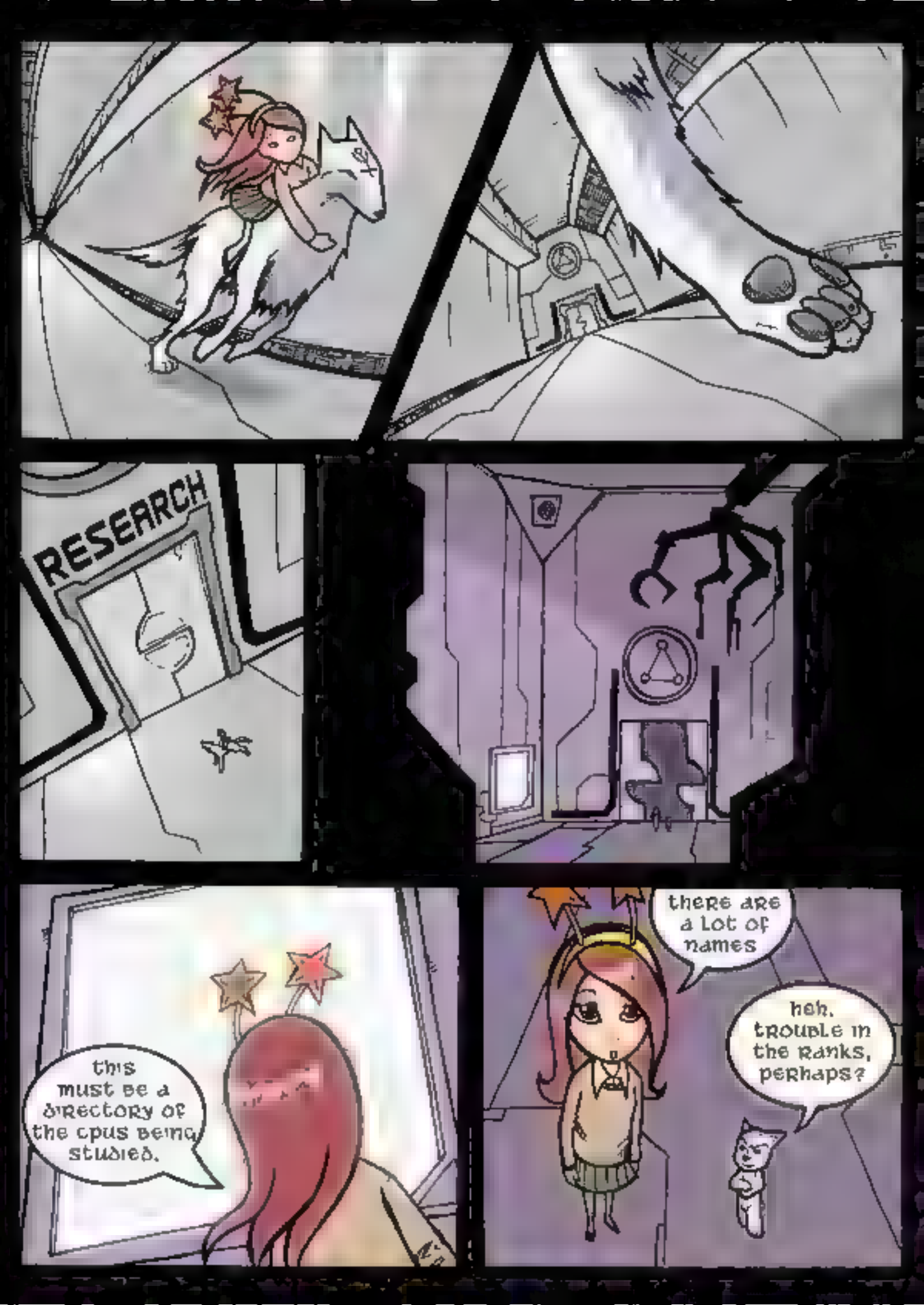

hello, sir. we are looking for someone
certainly. make, model number, serial or name, please.
his name is ROBOT!
STARE
um...
number 13?

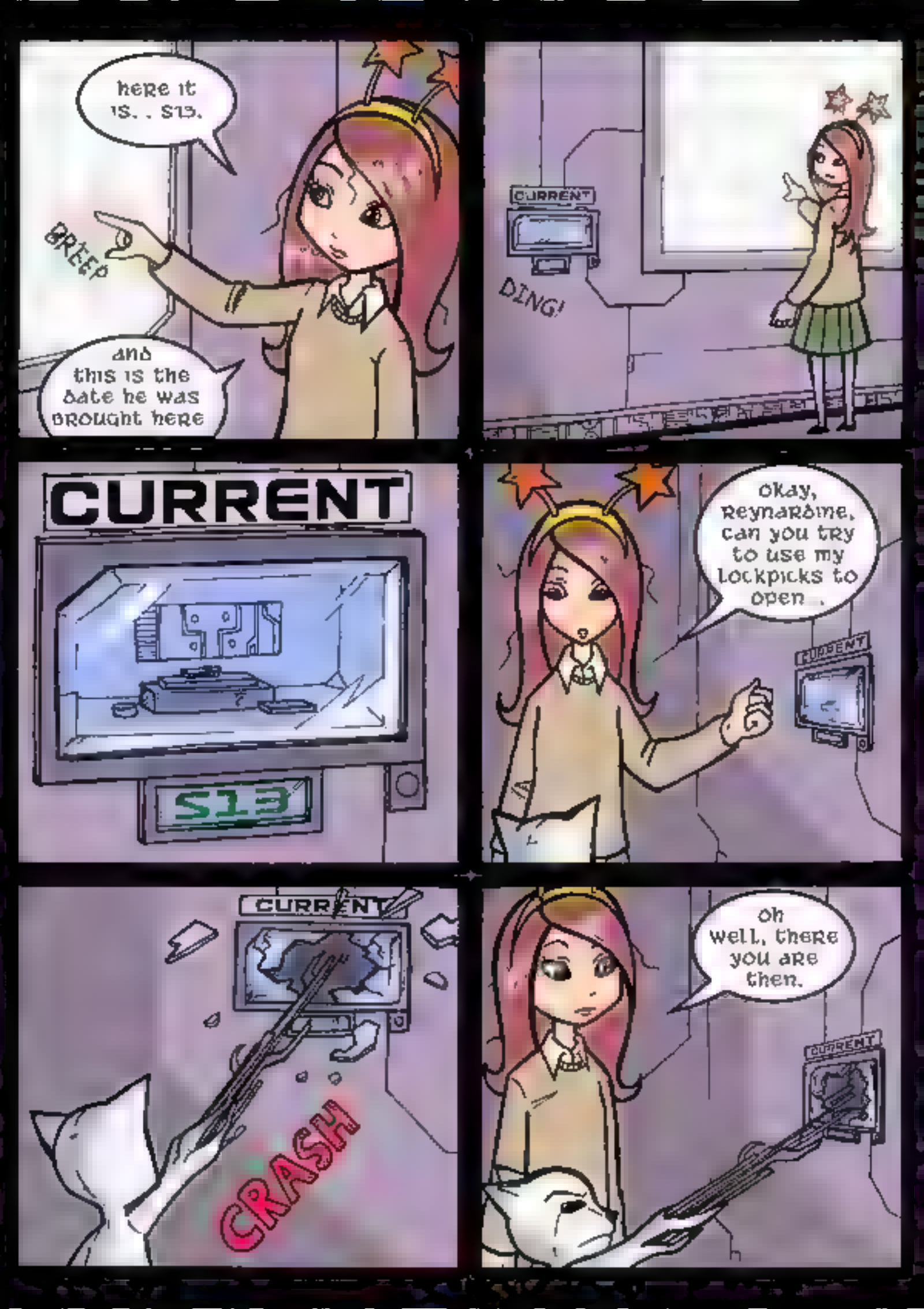

let me guess, he has tiny little wings on his back.
yes, that's right.
ADMIN
of course. S13 is quite sought after. not least for all the trouble he causes
he was returned to us some weeks ago. darned fool left the facility grounds
that sounds like him. can I see him?
certainly.
SWISH
CHONK
here you go.

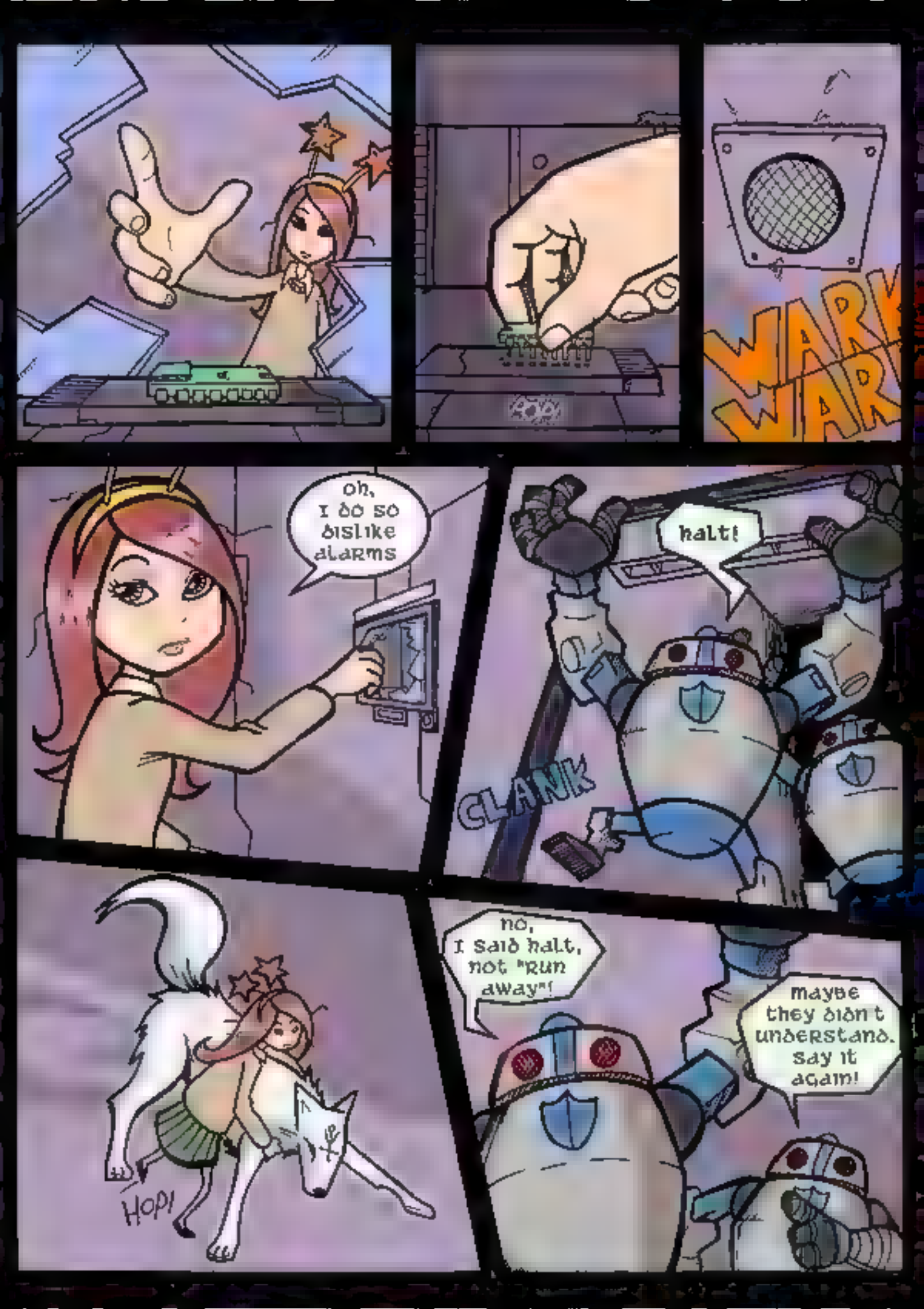

What is this?
It's a box of paperclips.
the fate of the criminally inclined
oh no. . poor robot
meanwhile, as his body begins a career in paper fastening, s13's cpu has been sent to research
what is a cpu?
his brain, my dear
criminal behaviour is to be studied.
CLANG CLANG
so he is still alive?! where is this research?
at the end of corridor three.
you realise I could have told you all this in about 1/25th of a second if you'd had a communications port installed.

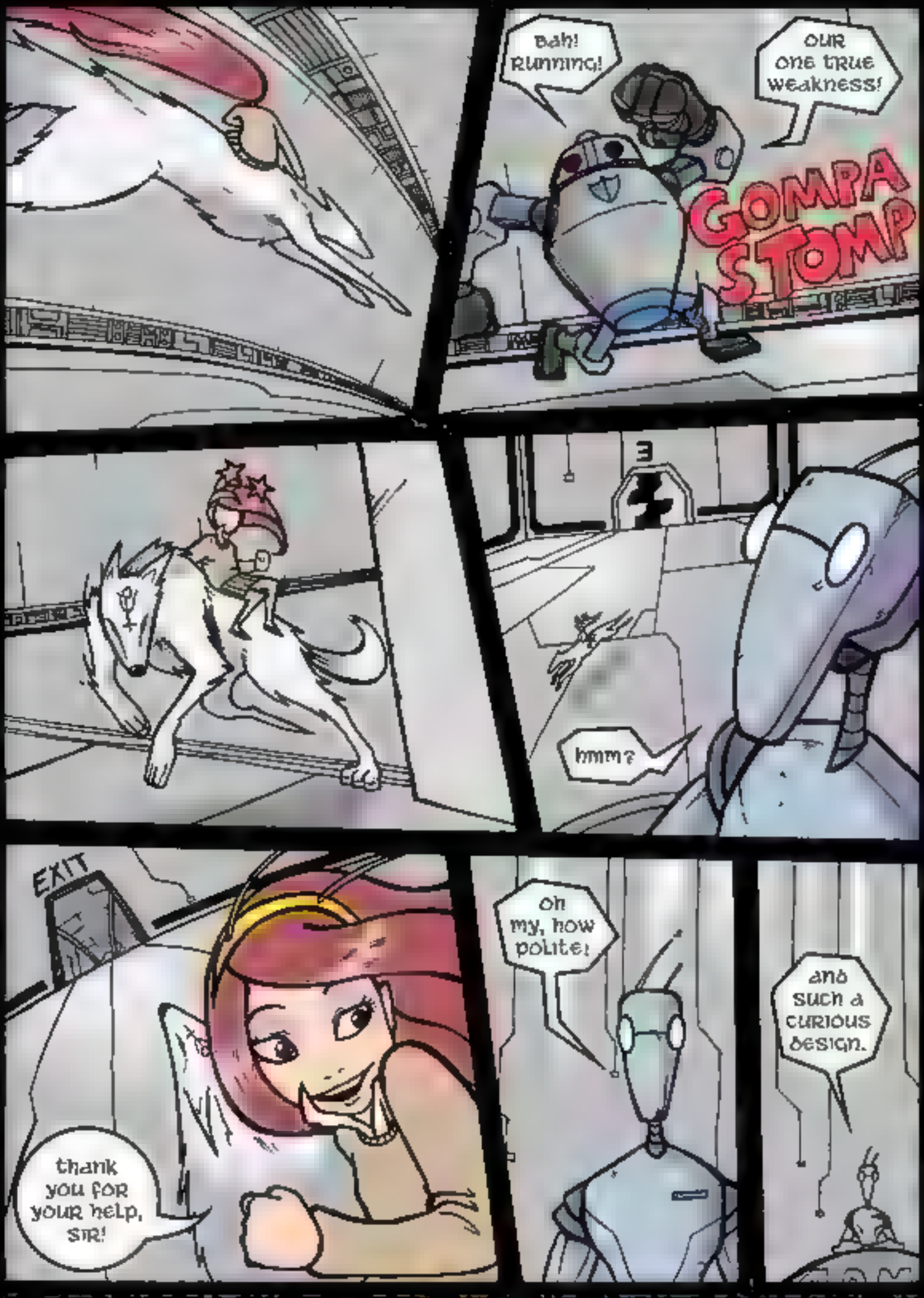

this could take some time
It might be better if we ran
a disappointingly short time later
huff...
huff
huff ..
haha! tired already child?!
don't be so cocky you don't have any lungs.


fine .. get on.
SHOOOM
well now..
a simple trick. this toy of yours is a wolf, no?
and may I...
I insist.
hold fast now.


RESEARCH
this must be a directory of the cpus being studied.
there are a lot of names
heh. trouble in the ranks, perhaps?


here it is. . S13.
BEEP
and this is the date he was brought here
CURRENT
DING!
CURRENT
S13
okay, Reynardine, can you try to use my lockpicks to open .
CURRENT
CURRENT
CRASH
oh well, there you are then.
CURRENT


BOOP
WARK WARK
oh, I do so dislike alarms
halt!
CLANK
HOP!
no, I said halt, not "run away"!
maybe they didn't understand. say it again!


Bah! Running!
our one true weakness!
GOMPA STOMP
hmm?
EXIT
thank you for your help, sir!
oh my, how polite!
and such a curious design.


maybe... maybe they stopped for a rest just up ahead...
that makes sense!
STOMP STOMP
open the door, please, mister door robot!
huh?!
thank you!
WHAM
ahh!


Back at the Lab
Let's see well, it looks like a normal cpu...
but I don't know what this extra part is
TAP TAP
anyway, I have just the thing!
this docking station has a camera, speaker and microphone, so the robot will be able to see, speak and hear.
SNAP
~OOR mommy! how terrible I am! she fell off the bridge! what did I do?!
woah!


am. am I in heaven?!
I see an angel before me!
haha! aww!
robot?
mommy?! you're okay! oh thank goodness!
unless .
unless...
you are in heaven too!
oh woe is me!
no, robot, I'm fine. and so are you.
in a manner of speaking .
your body was made into paperclips.
oh! well, it's good to be useful!
hah! optimism defined.


Robot, can you tell us what happened in the forest?
what?!
yes! I remember I crossed the bridge and the shadow man joined his family.
I went looking for a new arm, but the forest was so big!
I didn't have much luck.
then one day a man came
he told me he knew where to get a new arm.
GRRR!


and the next thing I knew..
he put a tiny seed in my body
I had an arm of wood.
It felt like an instant, but my internal chronometer said several months had passed.
and then, horror of horrors!
a shadow man took control of my body!
I don't know how, but he had control of my actuators
and made me walk to the bridge.
and I saw you.
and the edge.
and ..
and now here I am


don't worry, robot, it's all over now
wait! wait! stop!
this is the contraption from the forest?!
hello!
you sent it there?!
a while back, yes, when I first came here
argh! child you have no idea what you've started!
what is it?
the people of the forest will be wanting answers!
they detest all forms of technology
why do you think there is such a divide between the court and that damned place?!

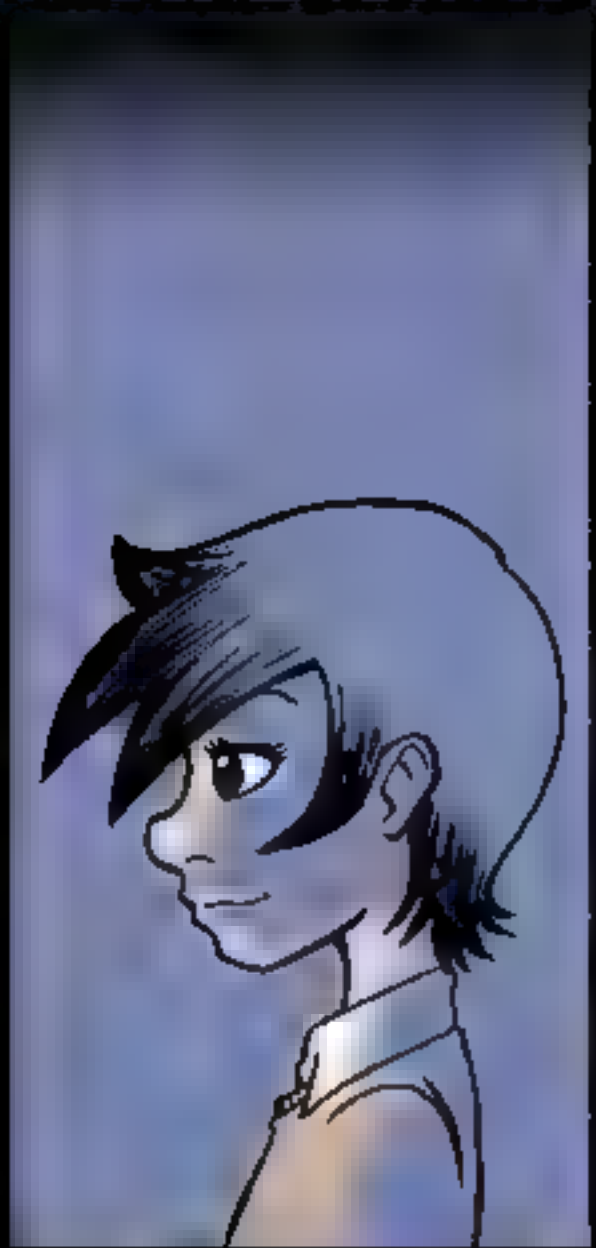

and what's more, you saw fit to capture one of their glass-eyed men
no! annie and princess kat help!
princess kat?
haha·
it's a wonder my fool cousin hasn't already retaliated.
he must be up to something...
your cousin, reynardine?
ah! uh.. uh..
POP
typical. just as he was about to say something interesting.


well, now that we have you back,robot, we should do something about your body
I think I can whip something up for him
at least something temporary while I get the parts to make a better body
thank you very much!
robot, I'm so sorry I caused you all this trouble
I should have told you to come back after you crossed the bridge
don't apologise
you see, you gave me something I'd never had before
you gave me a choice.

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 13:

A Week For Kat




monday
I wonder who that boy is.
what did you get for number four?
here, mate. you're in the wrong classroom.
oh aye?
yeah, and you forgot to put your uniform on.
and get a haircut
haha!


monday
I wonder who that boy is.
what did you get for number four?
here, mate. you're in the wrong classroom.
oh aye?
yeah, and you forgot to put your uniform on.
and get a haircut
haha!


Gee, I must be in the wrong place
yup.
I didn't realise this was some sort of fashion advice seminar.
yup.
Oy! are you trying to be smart?!
hey! Leave off, Winsbury
huh.
Good morning everyone!

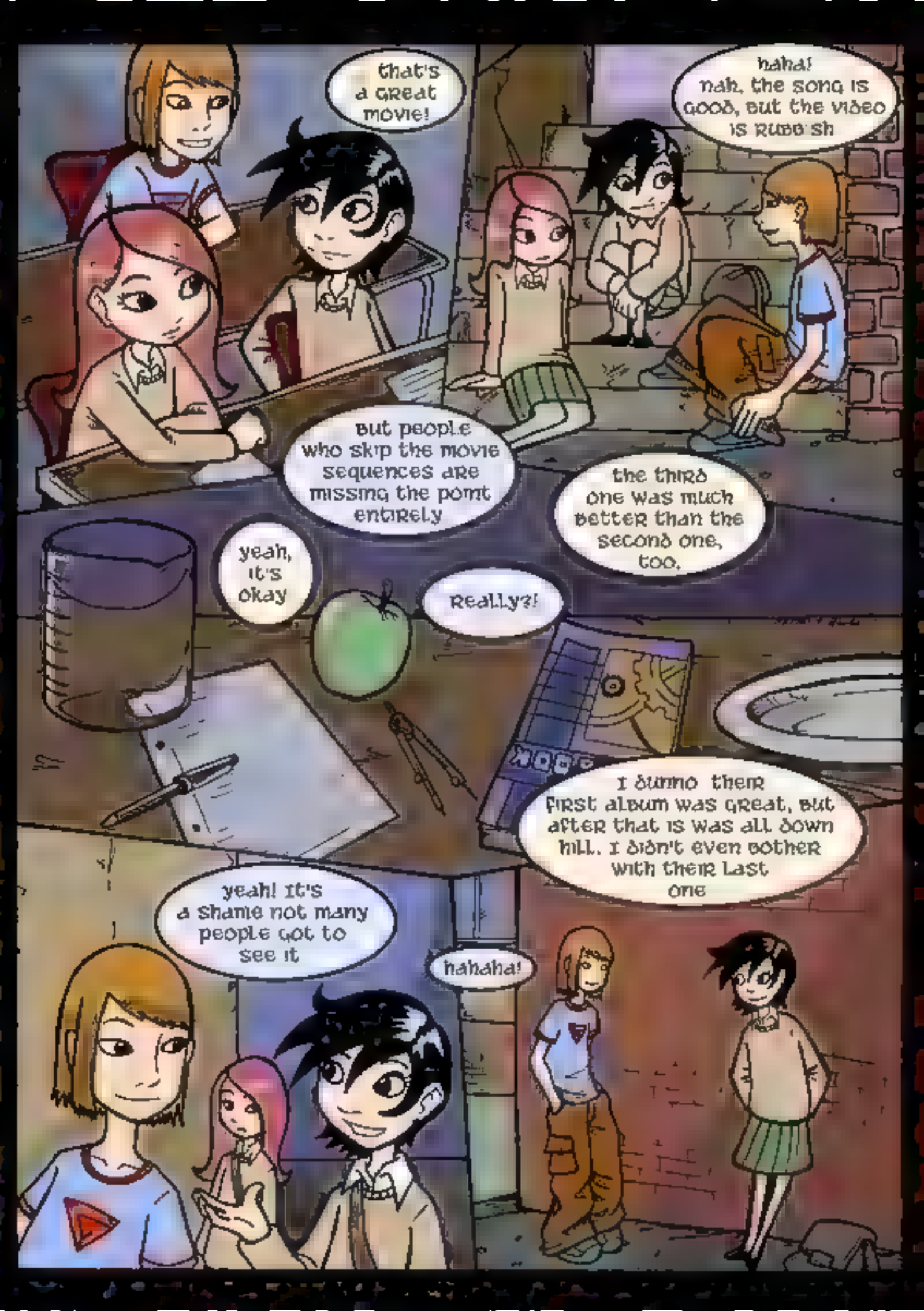

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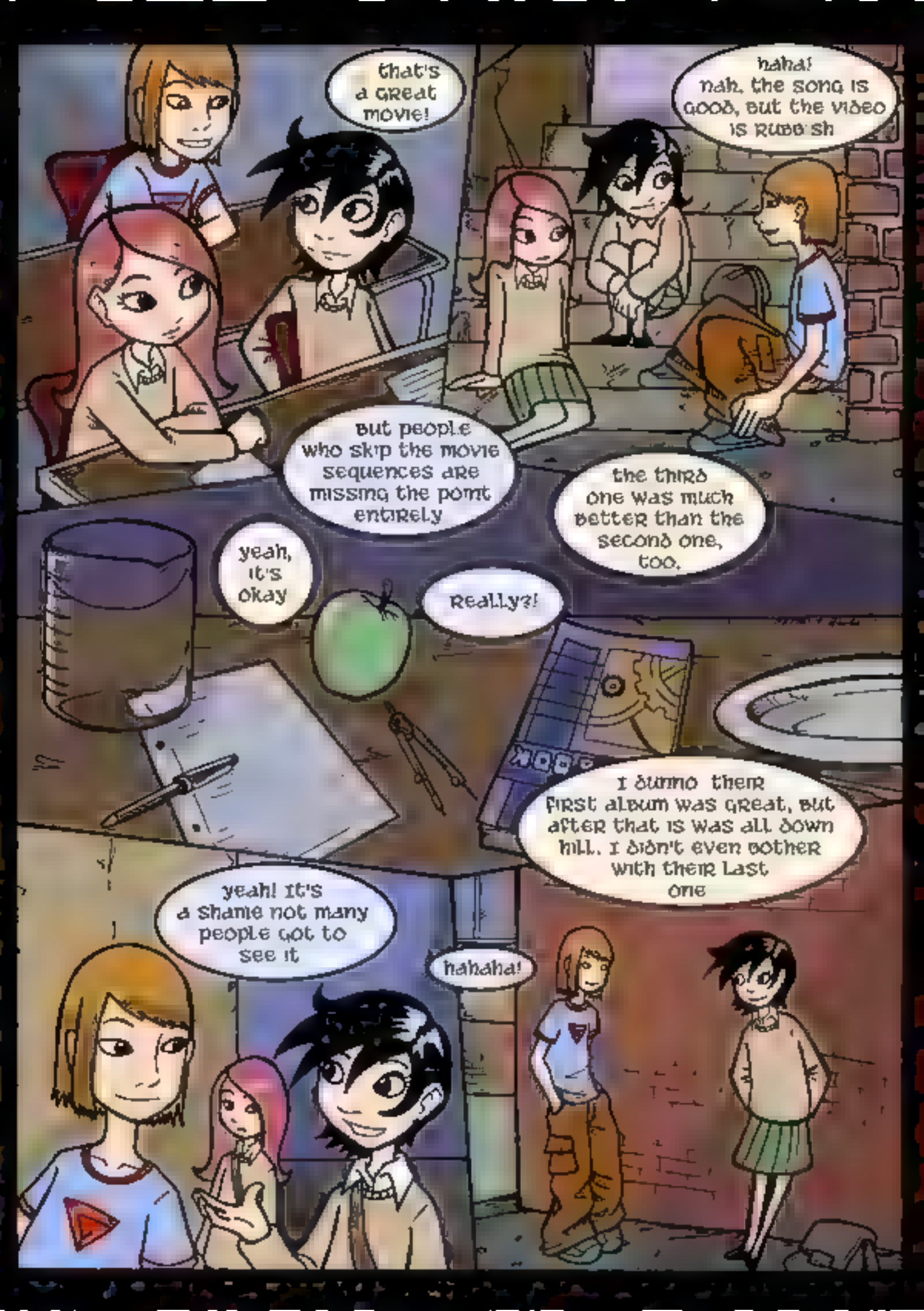

before we start: alistair here will be joining you for classes this week.
I'm sure you'll all make him feel welcome
now, for the morning's bulletin
10 minutes later
brrring
hi
hiya.
I'm kat, and this is-
antimony.
I'm alistair.
uh... I mean, aly.

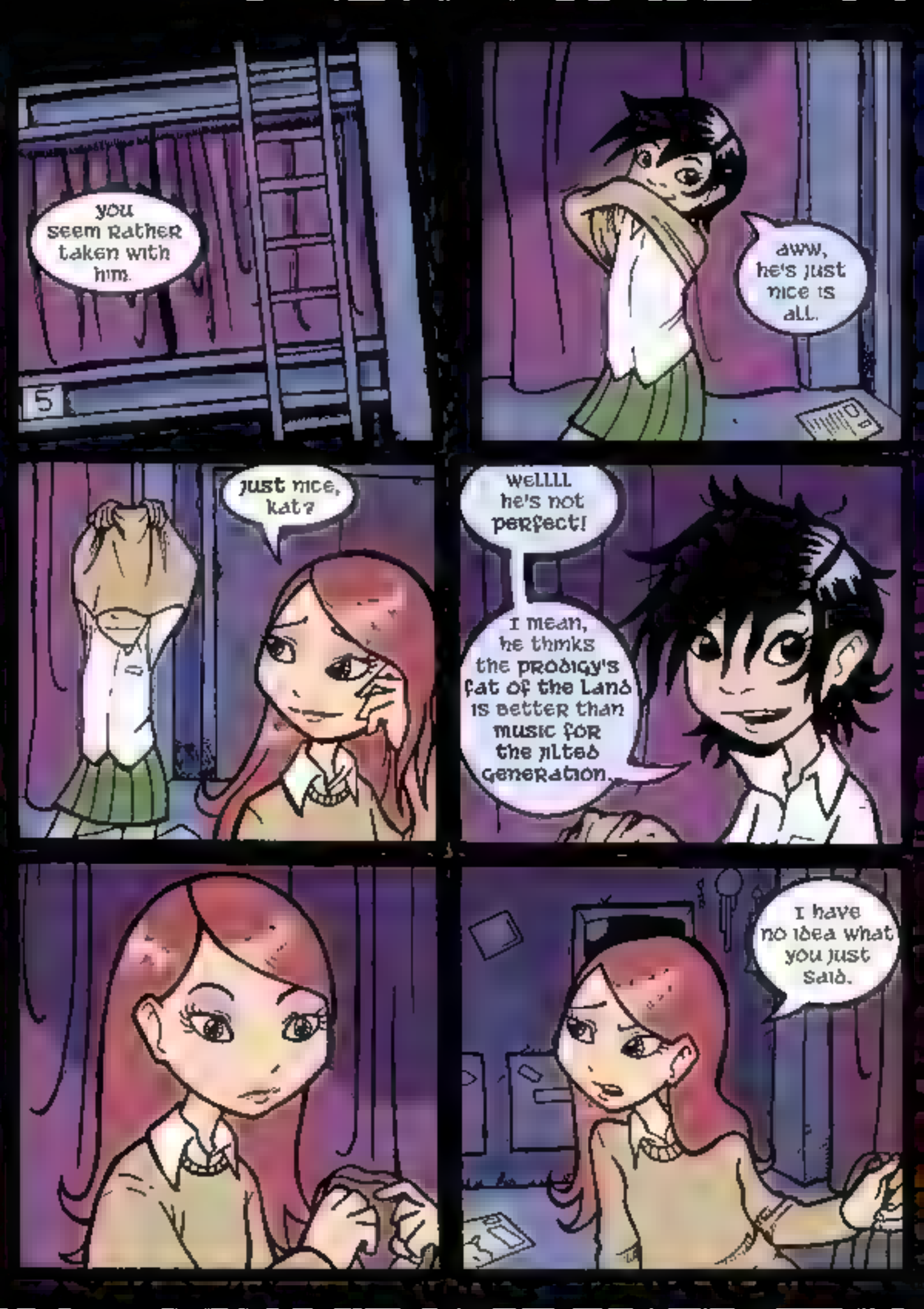

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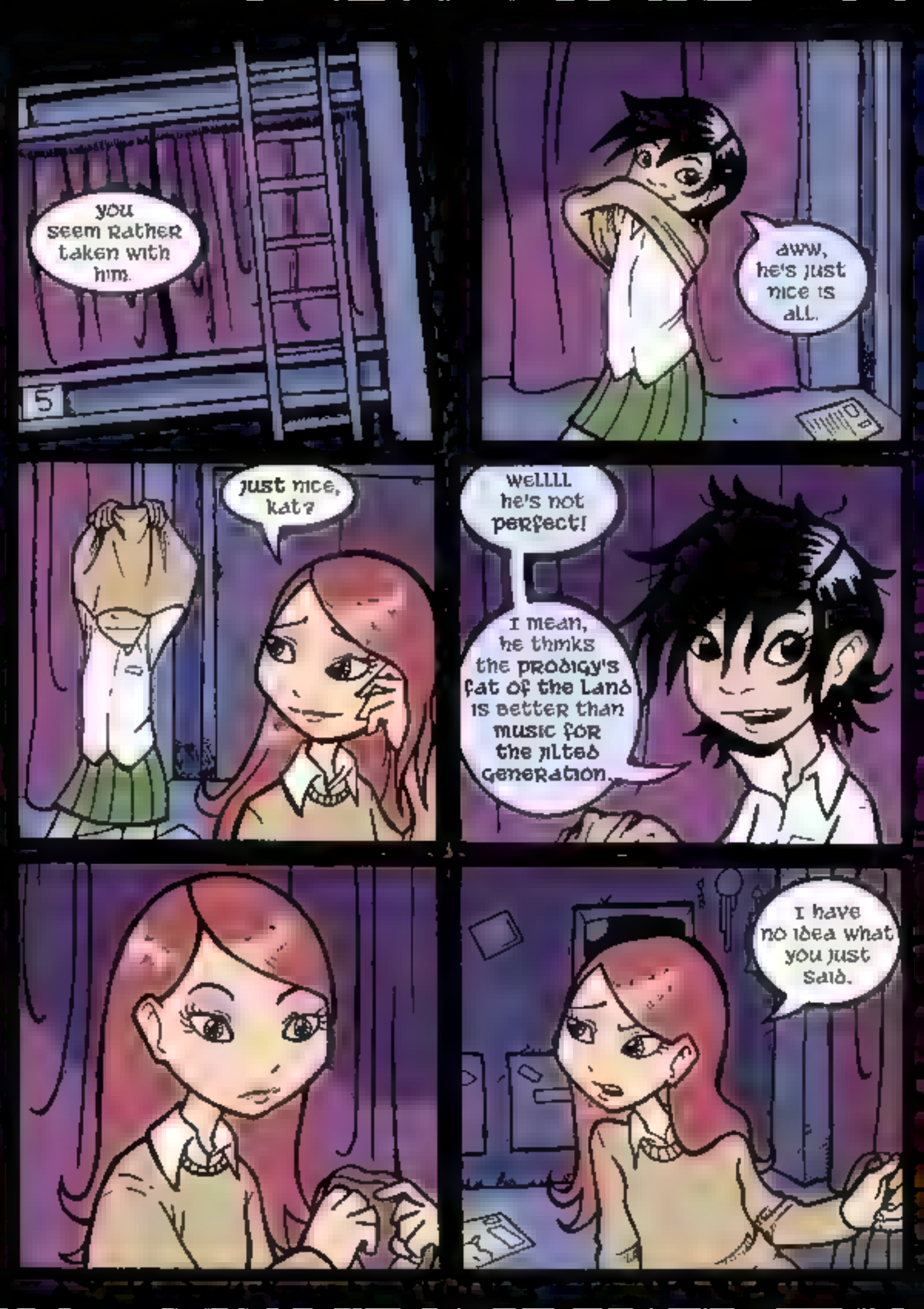

you want us to show you where our first class is?
haha, yeah, thanks. I can't find my way around here at all.
yeah, it's a bit confusing at first.
sorry about wimsbury, by the way. he can be a real jerk.
oh, haha no harm done, eh?


you want us to show you where our first class is?
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sorry about wimsbury, by the way. he can be a real jerk.
oh, haha no harm done, eh?


that's a great movie!
haha! nah, the song is good, but the video is rubbish
but people who skip the movie sequences are missing the point entirely
the third one was much better than the second one, too.
yeah, it's okay
Really?!
I dunno their first album was great, but after that is was all down hill. I didn't even bother with their last one
yeah! it's a shame not many people got to see it
hahaha!


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yeah! it's a shame not many people got to see it
hahaha!


you seem rather taken with him.
5
aww, he's just nice is all.
just nice, kat?
wellll he's not perfect!
I mean, he thinks the prodigy's fat of the land is better than music for the jilted generation.
I have no idea what you just said.


you seem rather taken with him.
5
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just nice, kat?
wellll he's not perfect!
I mean, he thinks the prodigy's fat of the land is better than music for the jilted generation.
I have no idea what you just said.


tuesday
what's that you're working on, aly?
well, since i'm only here for a week i don't have to do much work
this is just something they said i should do.
it's kinda dumb really.
are you going to a new school?
y'know, i haven't got a clue.
haha, weird!

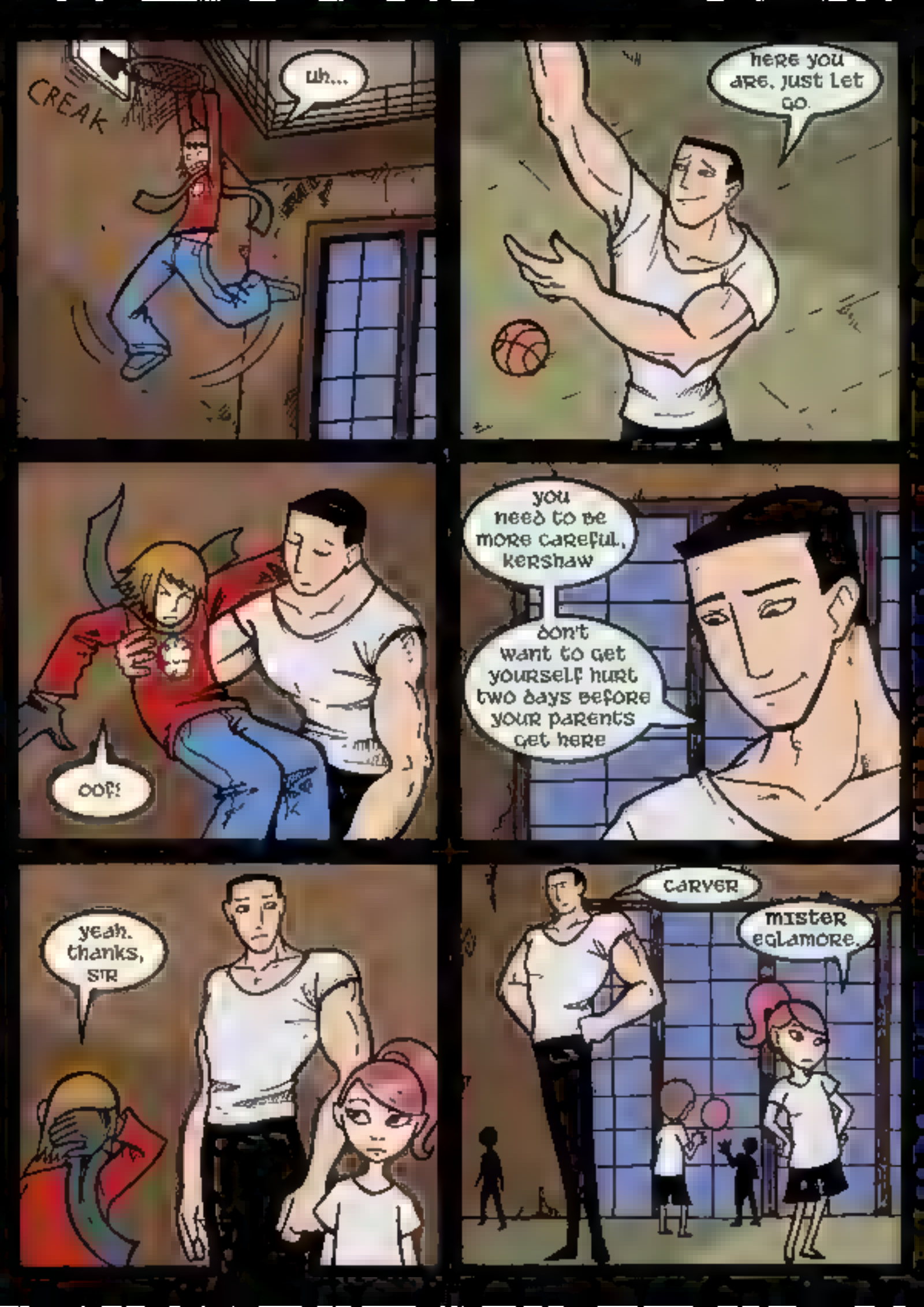

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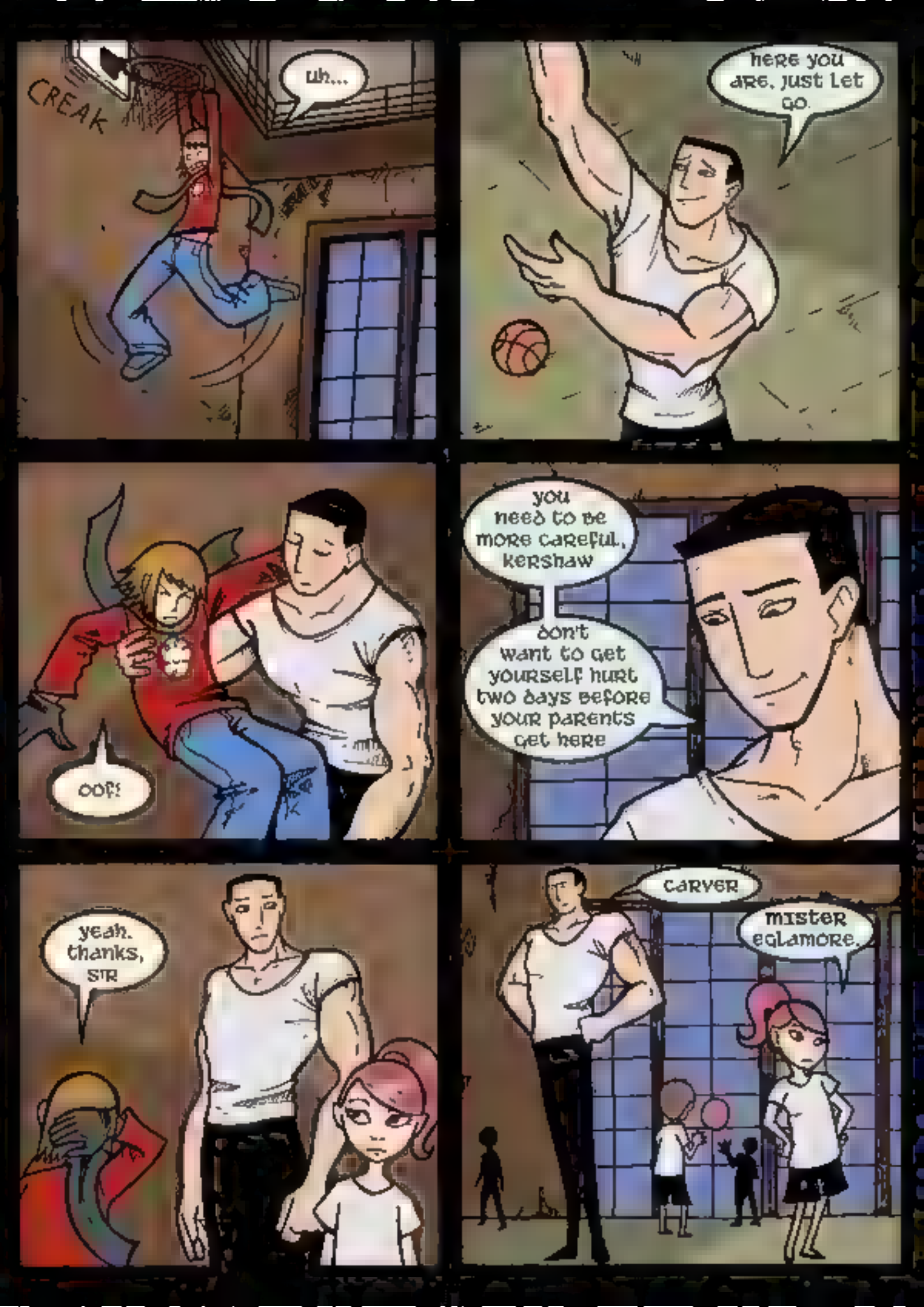

Wednesday
SAFE
don't tell me you don't have to do games either.
oh, don't start, willie!
and what are you wearing a scarf and gloves INSIDE for, man?
is it cold in here?
I might need to wrap up too!
don't want my delicate skin gettin' all chilly!


Wednesday
SAFE
don't tell me you don't have to do games either.
oh, don't start, willie!
and what are you wearing a scarf and gloves INSIDE for, man?
is it cold in here?
I might need to wrap up too!
don't want my delicate skin gettin' all chilly!


Whaaa?!
SLAM DUNK!!


Whaaa?!
SLAM DUNK!!


CREAK
uh...
here you are. just let go.
oof!
you need to be more careful, kershaw
don't want to get yourself hurt two days before your parents get here
yeah. thanks, sir
carver
mister eglamore.


CREAK
uh...
here you are. just let go.
oof!
you need to be more careful, kershaw
don't want to get yourself hurt two days before your parents get here
yeah. thanks, sir
carver
mister eglamore.


that was amazing, aly! you should be playing!
nah, I'm not supposed to do anything where I could get hurt
pardon me alistair
huh?
GRAB
woah! hey!
a-anne! what are you doing?!


that was amazing, aly! you should be playing!
nah, I'm not supposed to do anything where I could get hurt
pardon me alistair
huh?
GRAB
woah! hey!
a-anne! what are you doing?!


he's very light that must be how he can jump so..
what?!
what's wrong with you?!
I-I was only curious...
I don't care!
oh my goooob! how embarassing!
aly, are you okay?!
uh, yeah, yeah. It's no big deal


he's very light that must be how he can jump so..
what?!
what's wrong with you?!
I-I was only curious...
I don't care!
oh my goooob! how embarassing!
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thursday
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
5
sob
sniffle
kat?
kat, are you okay?
sob
oh, I don't know what to do!
I can't do this stuff at all!


thursday
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
5
sob
sniffle
kat?
kat, are you okay?
sob
oh, I don't know what to do!
I can't do this stuff at all!


W-Wuh... What are you .
I-I wanted to make myself look nice.. for
you know .
I understand. I can help if you like.
Oh, could you?!
I don't know how to put on make up
okay
just close your eyes.
soon
you can look now.
much better, yes?

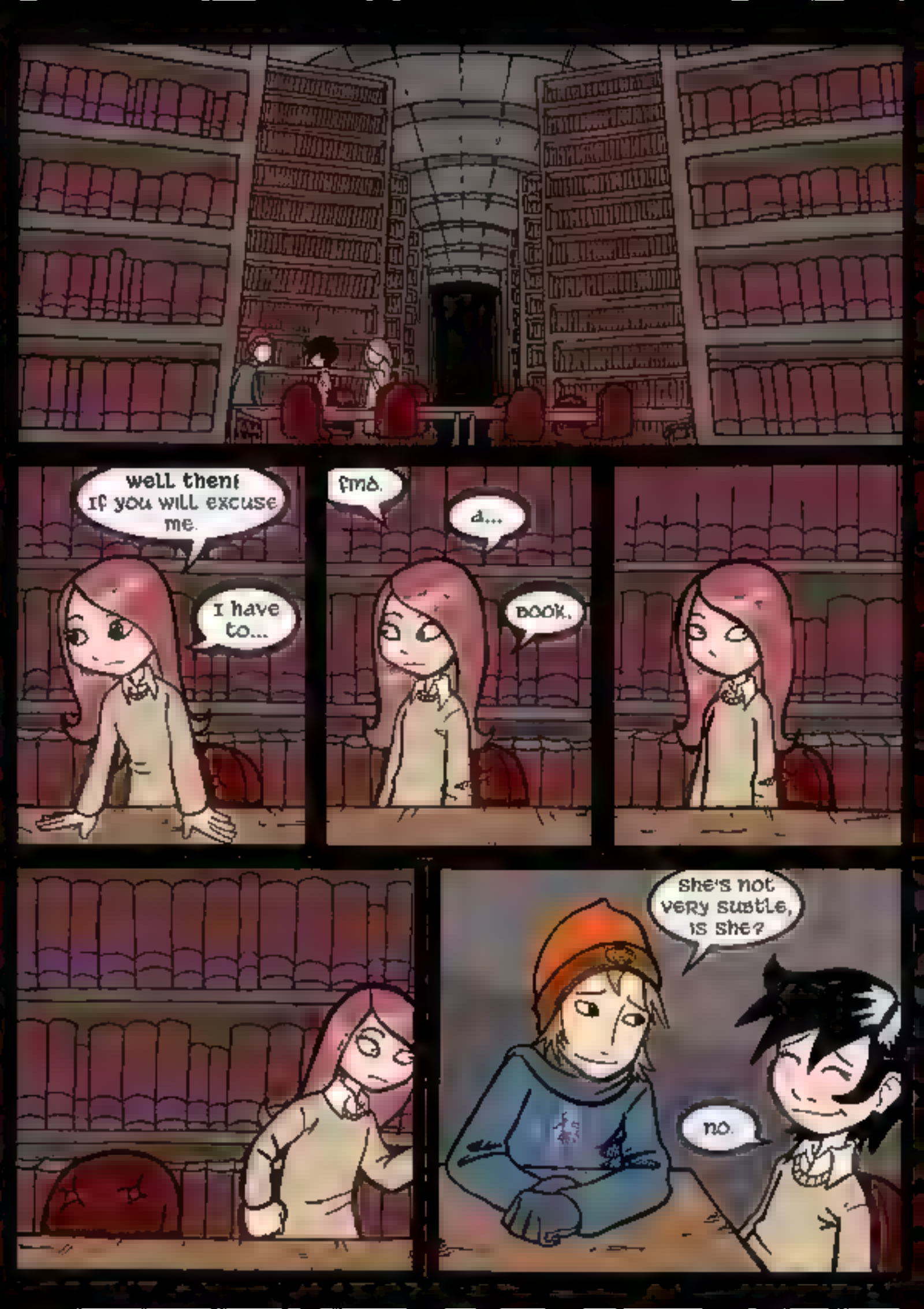

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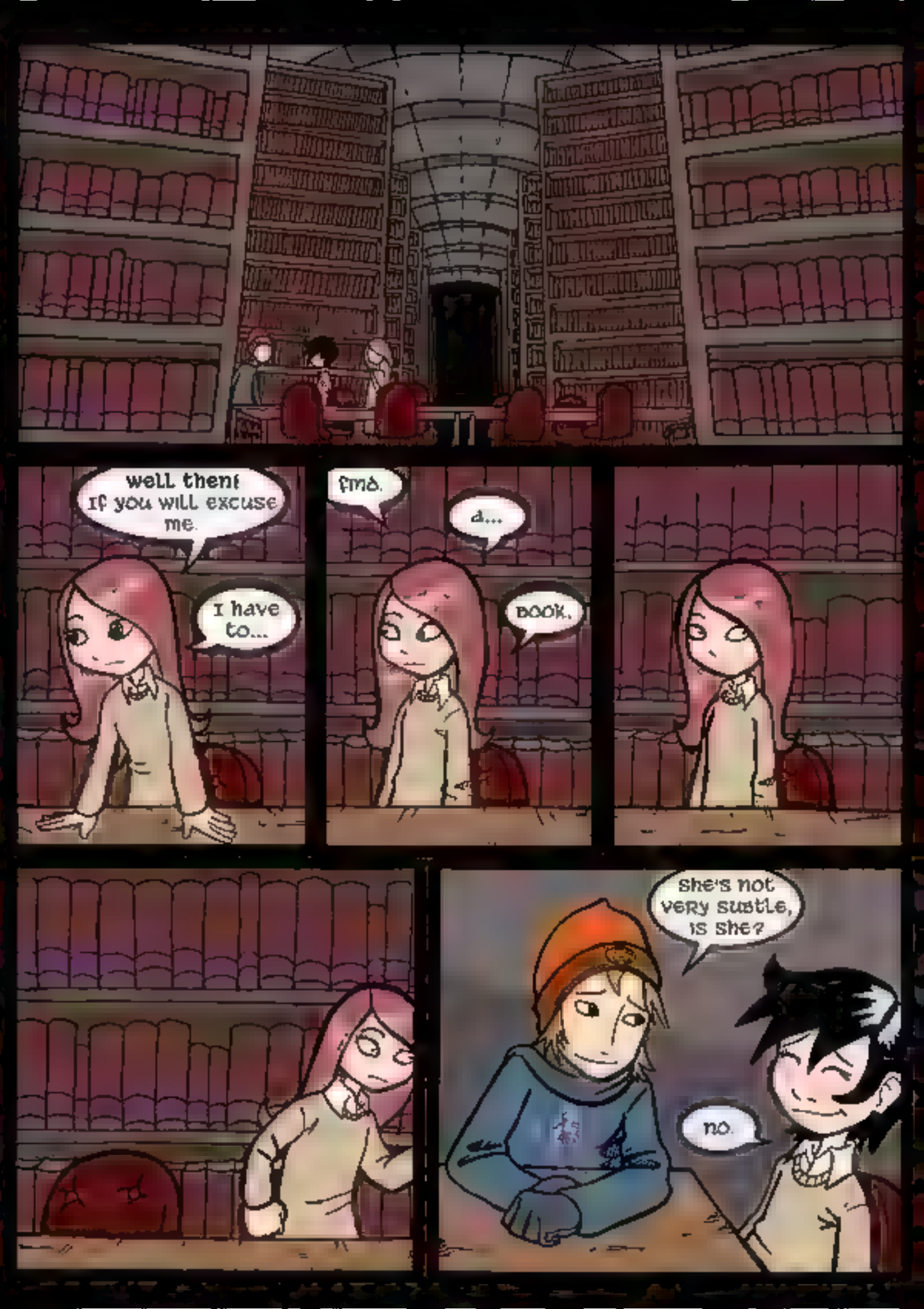

hey! I look the same as I always do!
that's right, and even I can see alistair likes you as you are.
I don't think you need to change yourself to make him like you more.
besides, you don't need make up
you're far too beautiful for that
aww, jeez, annie! what are you doing, makin' me all blush!
I - I'm sorry about yesterday, kat I wasn't thinking
don't worry about it
I was just embarassed. I wish I hadn't yelled at you.


hey! I look the same as I always do!
that's right, and even I can see alistair likes you as you are.
I don't think you need to change yourself to make him like you more.
besides, you don't need make up
you're far too beautiful for that
aww, jeez, annie! what are you doing, makin' me all blush!
I - I'm sorry about yesterday, kat I wasn't thinking
don't worry about it
I was just embarassed. I wish I hadn't yelled at you.


hang on... if I don't need makeup, why do y-
there's the bell
we'll be late for registration.
after registration
al stair, I apologise for yesterday. I'll try to make sure it doesn't happen again.
haha! okay just give me more warning if it does.
so what's first today, guys?
well, it's just study right now, so we can go to the library.


hang on... if I don't need makeup, why do y-
there's the bell
we'll be late for registration.
after registration
al stair, I apologise for yesterday. I'll try to make sure it doesn't happen again.
haha! okay just give me more warning if it does.
so what's first today, guys?
well, it's just study right now, so we can go to the library.


well then! If you will excuse me.
I have to...
fine.
d...
BOOK.
she's not very subtle, is she?
no.


well then! If you will excuse me.
I have to...
fine.
d...
BOOK.
she's not very subtle, is she?
no.


Say, aren't you not wearing all that?
a little, yeah!
but I have to wear it, at least until tomorrow when...
when you leave.
yeah
I-I'm going to miss you, you know.
I'll miss you too!
I w-wish you could have stayed longer.


Say, aren't you not wearing all that?
a little, yeah!
but I have to wear it, at least until tomorrow when...
when you leave.
yeah
I-I'm going to miss you, you know.
I'll miss you too!
I w-wish you could have stayed longer.


Friday
kat!
morning, aly!
hey are you okay?
I-I came to say goodbye. I have to go now.
what?! already?! I thought you didn't have to go 'til later!
can do you have a ph-phone number? an e-mail address?
no... I won't have any of those where I'm going.
I'm really sorry, kat.
it-it was good to meet you.


Friday
kat!
morning, aly!
hey are you okay?
I-I came to say goodbye. I have to go now.
what?! already?! I thought you didn't have to go 'til later!
can do you have a ph-phone number? an e-mail address?
no... I won't have any of those where I'm going.
I'm really sorry, kat.
it-it was good to meet you.


"good to meet me?!"
kat, I'm very sorry.
10:00
12:15
1:50
eventually
okay, this has gone on long enough
where are you going?
we have karmatron dynamics next
you will see alistair before he leaves.
b-but

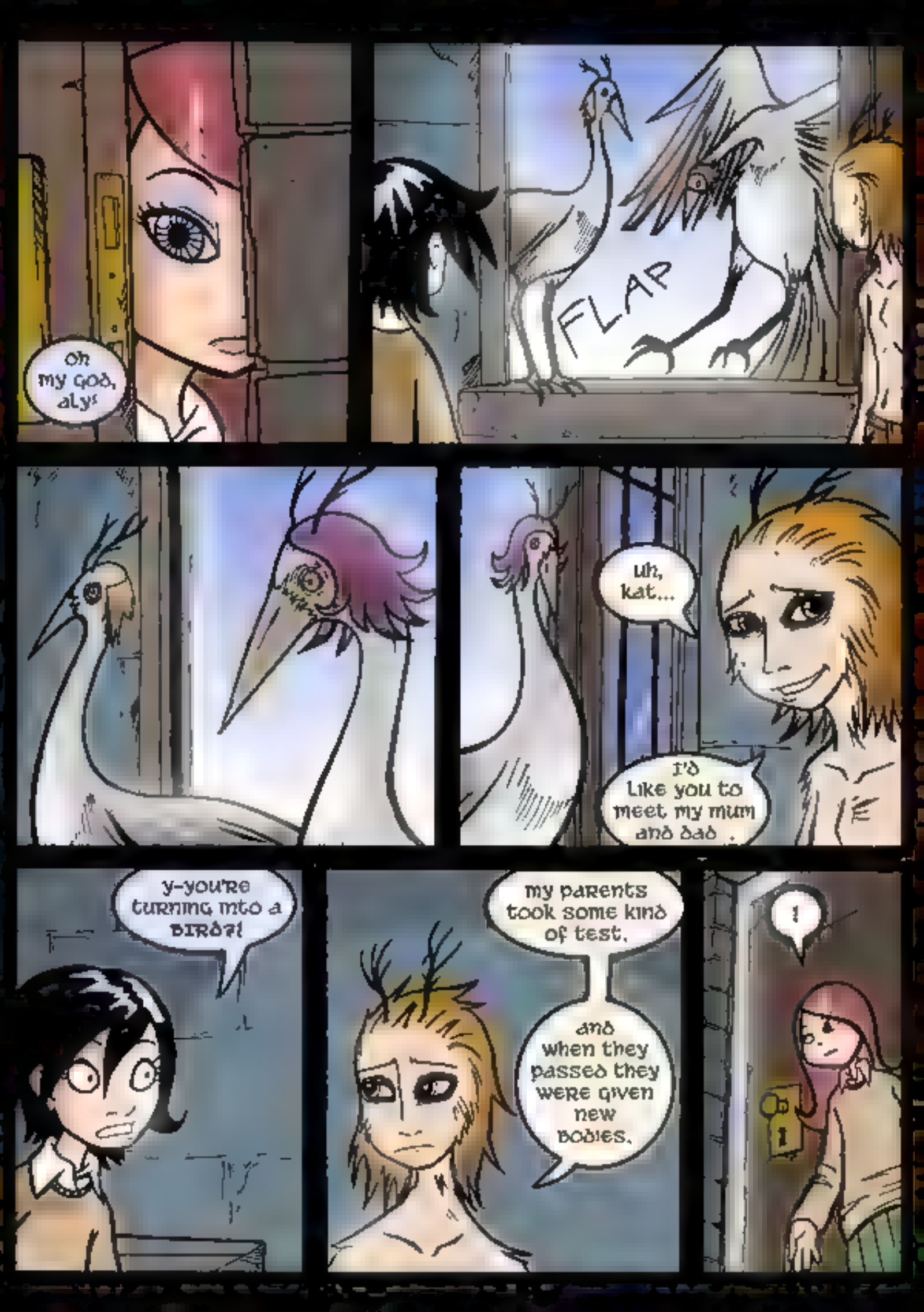

"good to meet me?!"
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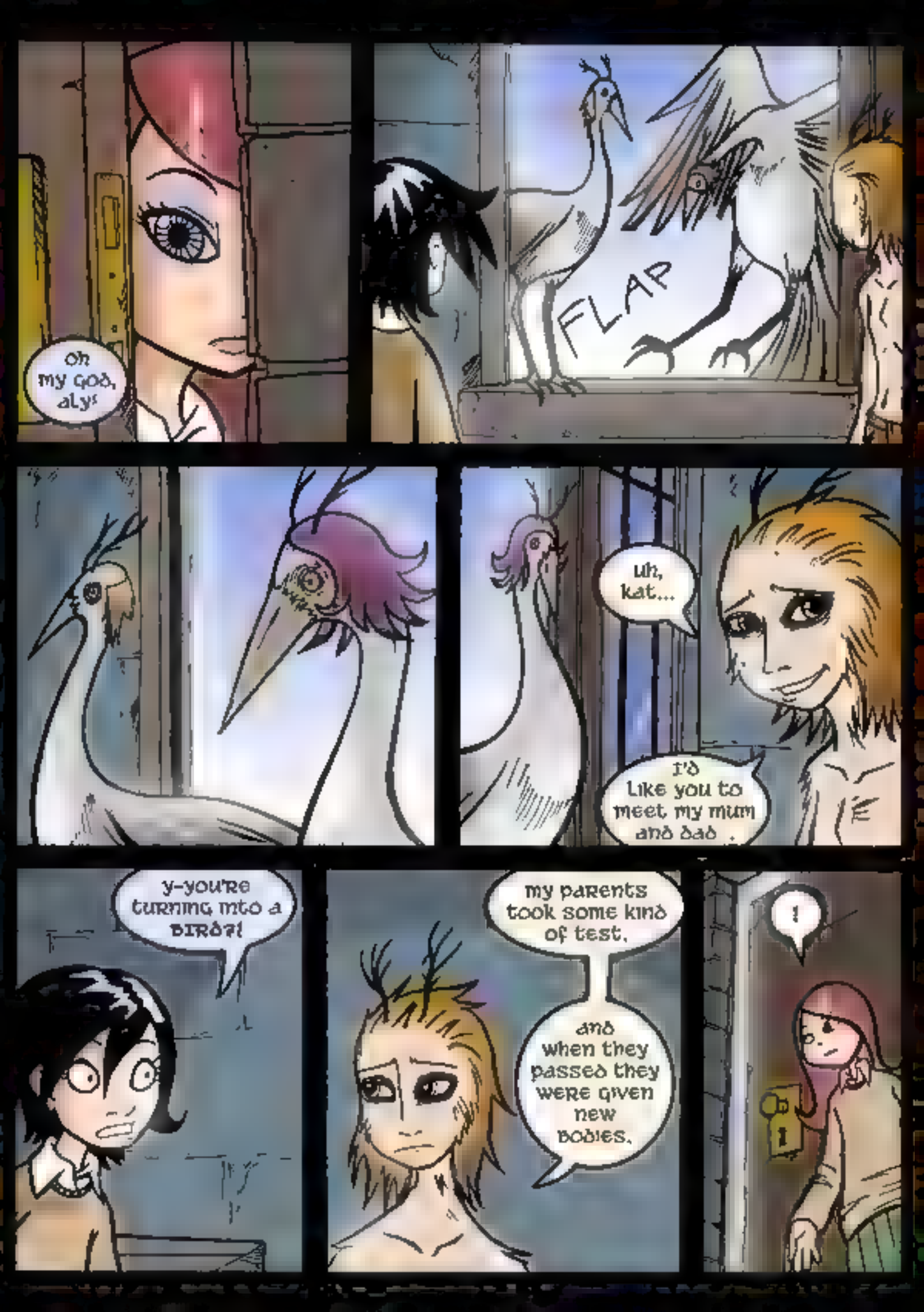

Why'd they make him sleep in a tower room? Nobody ever comes up here!
I-I think that's him, all wrapped up!
Oh no! What if he's sick?!
I don't know what to do!
I have an idea.
What! What is it?!
SHOVE

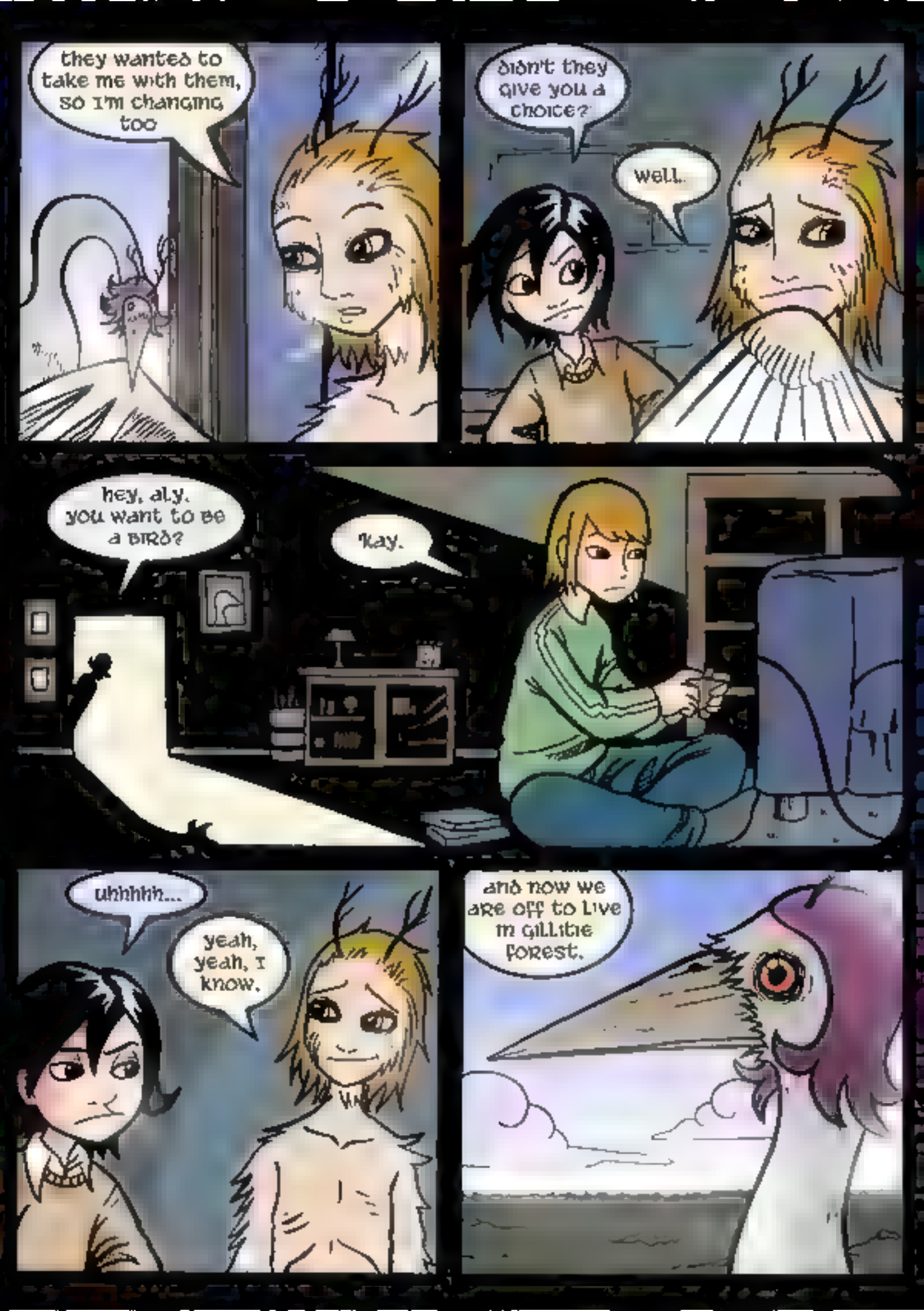

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Oh no! What if he's sick?!
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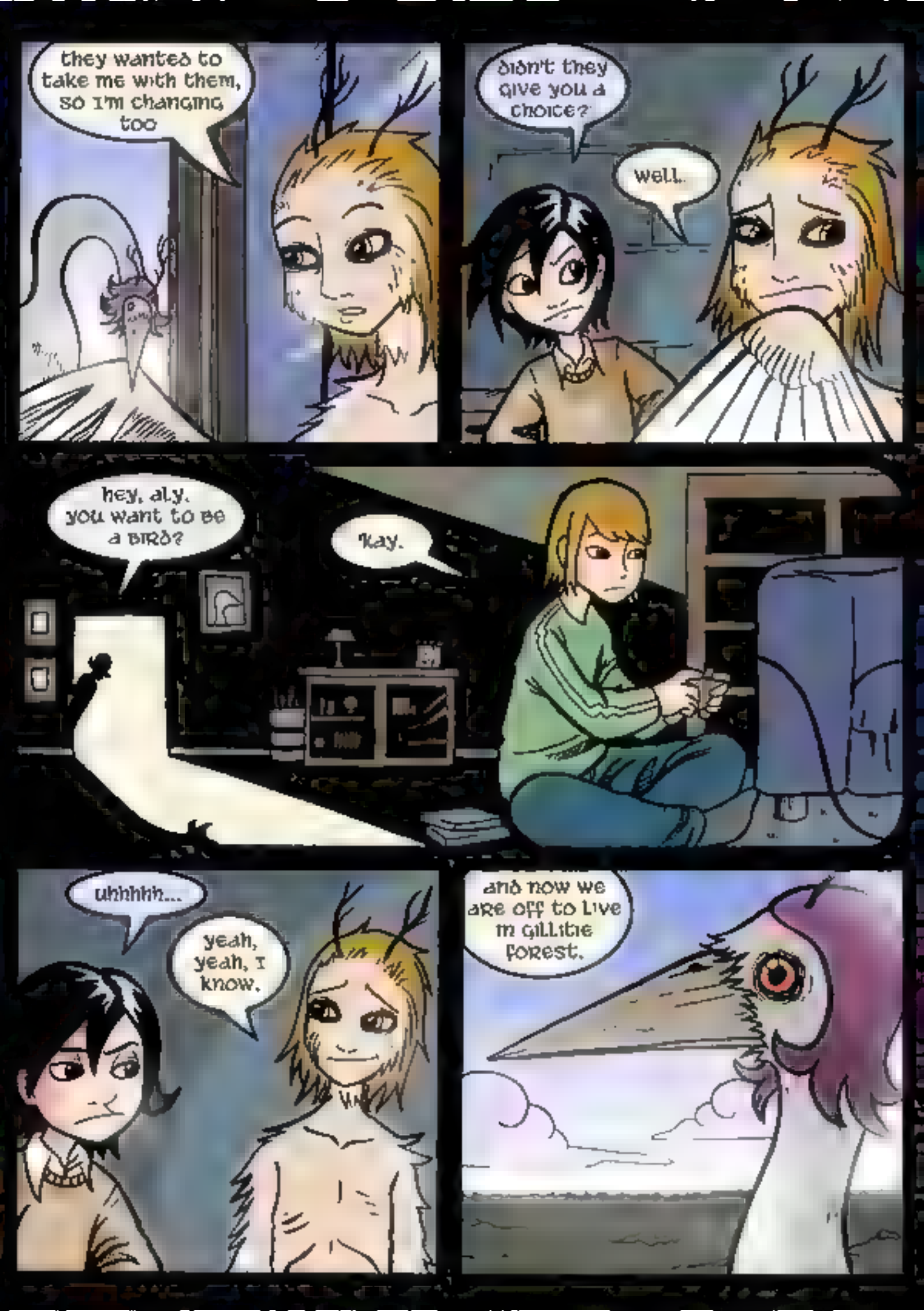

Kat!
y-you tried to leave without a proper goodbye, man.
I didn't want you to see me like this.
What's happening to you?


Kat!
y-you tried to leave without a proper goodbye, man.
I didn't want you to see me like this.
What's happening to you?


oh my god, aly!
FLAP
uh, kat...
I'd like you to meet my mum and dad .
y-you're turning into a BIRD?!
my parents took some kind of test,
and when they passed they were given new bodies.
!


oh my god, aly!
FLAP
uh, kat...
I'd like you to meet my mum and dad .
y-you're turning into a BIRD?!
my parents took some kind of test,
and when they passed they were given new bodies.
!


they wanted to take me with them, so I'm changing too
didn't they give you a choice?
well.
hey, aly. you want to be a bird?
kay.
uhhhhh...
yeah, yeah, I know.
and now we are off to live in gillitie forest.


they wanted to take me with them, so I'm changing too
didn't they give you a choice?
well.
hey, aly. you want to be a bird?
kay.
uhhhhh...
yeah, yeah, I know.
and now we are off to live in gillitie forest.


um... you can have my stuff if you want.
oh for God's sake, aly!


um... you can have my stuff if you want.
oh for God's sake, aly!


Ugh!
It-it's happening a lot faster now... I th-think. I...
aLy!


Ugh!
It-it's happening a lot faster now... I th-think. I...
aLy!


Hop
and she never saw him again.


Hop
and she never saw him again.


kat...
you don't have to hide your tears.
huh...
how could I cry after a week like that?


kat...
you don't have to hide your tears.
huh...
how could I cry after a week like that?

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 14:

The Fangs Of Summertime



Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 14:

The Fangs Of Summertime




two interesting things happened on this day
the first was the end of the school year.
and the second was when a god emerged from Gillitie Woods.
well come to the latter in a moment.


two interesting things happened on this day
the first was the end of the school year.
and the second was when a god emerged from Gillitie Woods.
well come to the latter in a moment.


yeah! come on, annie it would be great!
you would of course be welcome to come with us over the summer
thank you. but I'm sure my father will try to contact me now the term has finished
I should be here when he does.
well, if you should change your mind.
...
oh well that's odd.


yeah! come on, annie it would be great!
you would of course be welcome to come with us over the summer
thank you. but I'm sure my father will try to contact me now the term has finished
I should be here when he does.
well, if you should change your mind.
...
oh well that's odd.


what's up, mum?
um...
well, I suppose you two better come with me.
wow!
what is it?!


what's up, mum?
um...
well, I suppose you two better come with me.
wow!
what is it?!


It's a signal from the forest we have to reply
annie, you have a blinker stone around your neck. may I borrow it?
um, okay
mum! that was annie's!


It's a signal from the forest we have to reply
annie, you have a blinker stone around your neck. may I borrow it?
um, okay
mum! that was annie's!


I assume you didn't know it could do that?
no.
I can only use the stone to make fire.
then I will show you how to use it properly some time soon.
oh, and here's James
huh?!
MUD
Ladies


I assume you didn't know it could do that?
no.
I can only use the stone to make fire.
then I will show you how to use it properly some time soon.
oh, and here's James
huh?!
MUD
Ladies


where did you come from?!
I saw your reply signal, so I hopped on over.
you still have your old blinker stone, anja?
oh that's not mine. It belongs to antimony
I see
what's all this about?
the people of the forest are requesting a visit
no doubt concerning your little trip across the bridge.
we can't really refuse
I was expecting this a lot sooner, I must admit.


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I saw your reply signal, so I hopped on over.
you still have your old blinker stone, anja?
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what's all this about?
the people of the forest are requesting a visit
no doubt concerning your little trip across the bridge.
we can't really refuse
I was expecting this a lot sooner, I must admit.


well, I'll go and gather the usual people in the greeting hall
I'll see you there.
you too, carver
and me!
no.
don't forget parley and smith I don't think they've left yet.
of course.
and reynarome?
I suppose so. he won't like this any more than we do.
bring him along, will you, carver?

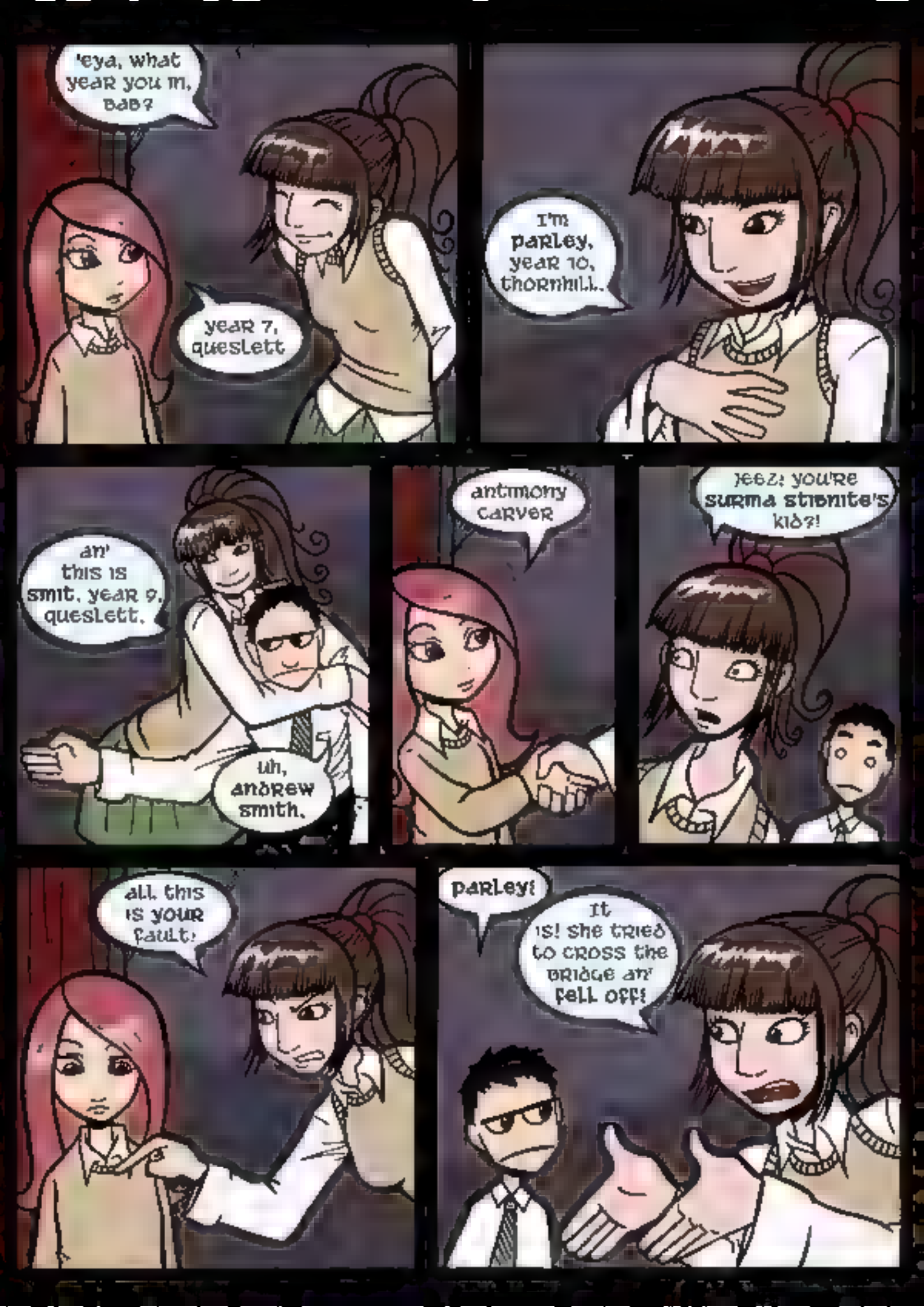

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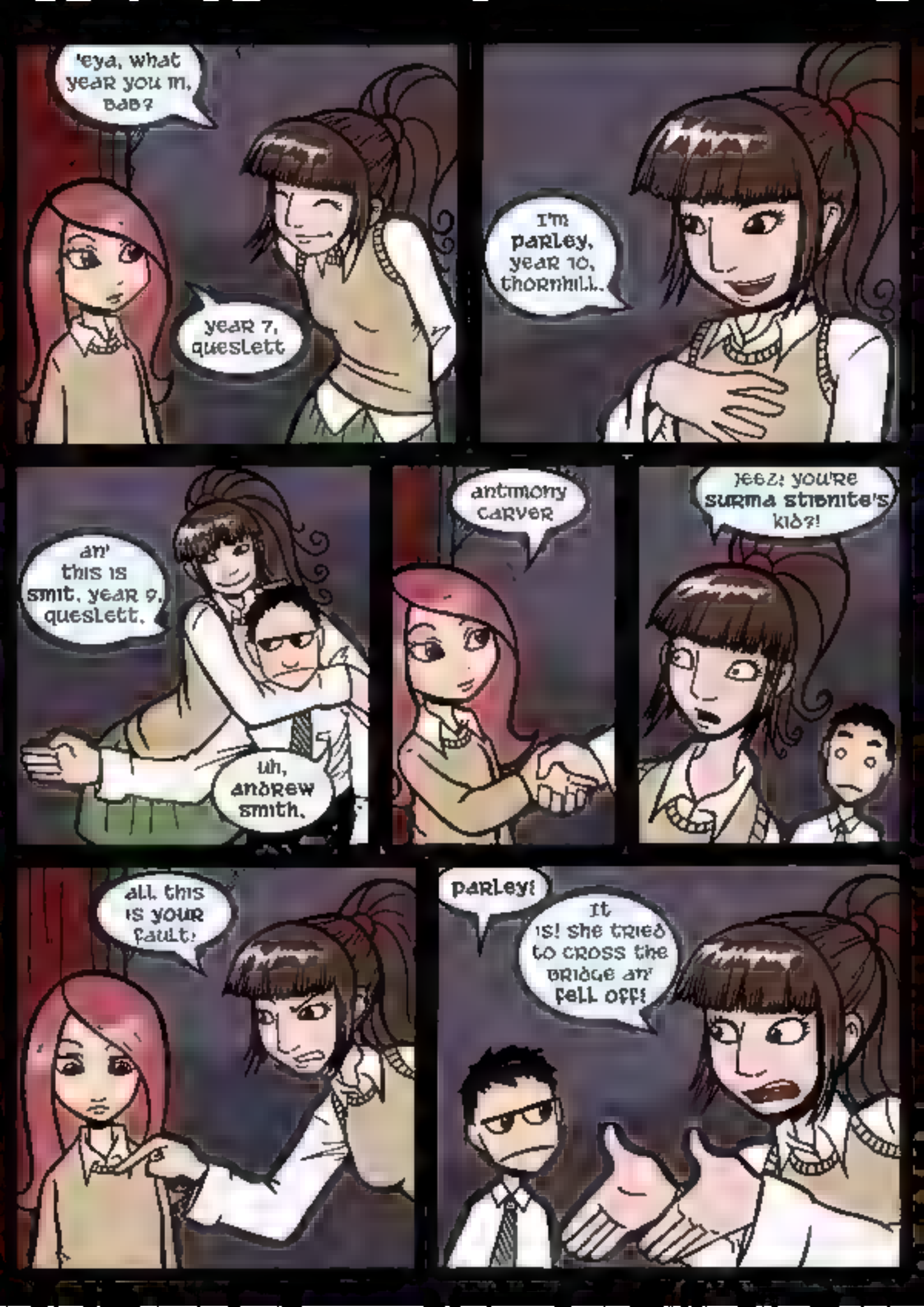

annie, here's your blinker stone back.
huh! I keep being surprised like every five minutes today!
oh! I didn't even see you retrieve it
there are more important things to focus on for now


annie, here's your blinker stone back.
huh! I keep being surprised like every five minutes today!
oh! I didn't even see you retrieve it
there are more important things to focus on for now


bah! I had all me stuff packed already. I look a mess!
you look fine, parley
haha! aww, am't you a sweetheart!
NYAK!


bah! I had all me stuff packed already. I look a mess!
you look fine, parley
haha! aww, am't you a sweetheart!
NYAK!


'eya, what year you in, bab?
year 7, queslett
I'm parley, year 10, thornhill.
an' this is smit, year 9, queslett.
uh, andrew smith.
antimony carver
jeez! you're surma stibnite's kid?!
all this is your fault!
parley!
it is! she tried to cross the bridge an' fell off!


'eya, what year you in, bab?
year 7, queslett
I'm parley, year 10, thornhill.
an' this is smit, year 9, queslett.
uh, andrew smith.
antimony carver
jeez! you're surma stibnite's kid?!
all this is your fault!
parley!
it is! she tried to cross the bridge an' fell off!


how do you know my mother's name?
she worked here as a medium, right?
me an' smitty are...
BAP
CREAK


how do you know my mother's name?
she worked here as a medium, right?
me an' smitty are...
BAP
CREAK


Creak
Creak
IS that you, General?
What the devil have you done to yourself?


Creak
Creak
IS that you, General?
What the devil have you done to yourself?


hurff.
hello, sir! w-we welcome you to-
what is this?
where is your medium?
she has passed on. parley and andrew here are training as her replacements.
SNAP
CREAK
you expect us to talk to children?


hurff.
hello, sir! w-we welcome you to-
what is this?
where is your medium?
she has passed on. parley and andrew here are training as her replacements.
SNAP
CREAK
you expect us to talk to children?


What game is this, Surma?
Why are they saying you are dead?
Get out there, you idiot!
SNIFF
You look much younger than before.


What game is this, Surma?
Why are they saying you are dead?
Get out there, you idiot!
SNIFF
You look much younger than before.


surma was my mother.
you're her daughter?!
hahaha.
eglamore you hound!
...
carver is the girl's father.
oh! in that case, how awkward! hahaha!
ahaha hahaha haha!
coyote.
hmm?
are you really the coyote?
yes! yes I am!
and your mother is really gone?
I'm sorry, I forget how short a time you humans have in this world.
she was a fine, pretty girl


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you're her daughter?!
hahaha.
eglamore you hound!
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yes! yes I am!
and your mother is really gone?
I'm sorry, I forget how short a time you humans have in this world.
she was a fine, pretty girl


I heard a story once where you saw how people were created.
and you tried to make some yourself but...
I laughed part way through! yes, not one of my finer moments!
and your creations had glass eyes because of it.
can we get a move on?
this is ysenorm he is very impatient!


I heard a story once where you saw how people were created.
and you tried to make some yourself but...
I laughed part way through! yes, not one of my finer moments!
and your creations had glass eyes because of it.
can we get a move on?
this is ysenorm he is very impatient!


where do you wish to begin, general?
perhaps with the death of one of our people
at the hands of sir eglamore, no less.
that happened during an attempt to stop an attack you started.
excuse me, coyote.
are the shadow people of the forest your glass eyed men?
indeed they are!
I have business nearby
that must be why muut was there that night
oh, you know muut?
nice guy!
hell of a poker face!


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indeed they are!
I have business nearby
that must be why muut was there that night
oh, you know muut?
nice guy!
hell of a poker face!


I have to ask, ysengrin, why have you taken so long to confront us about this?
well, originally we'd heard one of your own fell to their death that night and we were content to leave it at that.
but we are here today about something far more serious.
this was recently found on our side of the arnan waters.
CLATTER
it's one of those birds!
it had been there several months
by the time I discovered it, it had already rooted itself into the shore and caused considerable damage to the cliff face.


I have to ask, ysengrin, why have you taken so long to confront us about this?
well, originally we'd heard one of your own fell to their death that night and we were content to leave it at that.
but we are here today about something far more serious.
this was recently found on our side of the arnan waters.
CLATTER
it's one of those birds!
it had been there several months
by the time I discovered it, it had already rooted itself into the shore and caused considerable damage to the cliff face.


you placed it there in order to infect the forest.
no, we don't even know where these birds come from.
Liar! you cannot deny this device was made with court technology
we've wanted to capture one of them for a long time. if we could just study the remains...
CREAK
CRUNCH
you are in no position to make requests.


you placed it there in order to infect the forest.
no, we don't even know where these birds come from.
Liar! you cannot deny this device was made with court technology
we've wanted to capture one of them for a long time. if we could just study the remains...
CREAK
CRUNCH
you are in no position to make requests.


further more, we have proof that anthony carver was the one who planted the device there!
!
we found this garment...
which bears the name A. CARVER!
um... actually, sir, that's mine


further more, we have proof that anthony carver was the one who planted the device there!
!
we found this garment...
which bears the name A. CARVER!
um... actually, sir, that's mine


my first name is antimony
and that is a girl's jumper.
much too small for a grown man.
ah
we are not very good with human clothing!
so... so you admit you planted it there!
I do not.
those birds saved me as I was the one who fell from the bridge.
not content with that, I assume, ysengrim.
rrrr...
bah!
you fools are making jackasses of yourselves!


my first name is antimony
and that is a girl's jumper.
much too small for a grown man.
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we are not very good with human clothing!
so... so you admit you planted it there!
I do not.
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not content with that, I assume, ysengrim.
rrrr...
bah!
you fools are making jackasses of yourselves!


what are you planning? what trick are you trying to play?
cousin!
it's so good to see you!
you look so well!
I'm more wolf than you are now. look at yourself!
you dare take the form of a wolf?!
you should admire this body lord coyote has gifted me with, renard.
the very trees of gillitie are under my command!
I tremble in the presence of your terrifying skills of gardening, ysengrm.
snort
ahem... 'scuse me.


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it's so good to see you!
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ahem... 'scuse me.


won't you come back to the forest with us, dearest cousin?
you know how I feel about that.
besides, I broke their laws, remember. I couldn't leave even if I wanted to.
I didn't appreciate your attempt at stealing me away on the bridge, either.
such lame excuses, renard! I think someone isn't being honest!
perhaps... this one has something to do with it
you don't know what you're talking about, coyote


won't you come back to the forest with us, dearest cousin?
you know how I feel about that.
besides, I broke their laws, remember. I couldn't leave even if I wanted to.
I didn't appreciate your attempt at stealing me away on the bridge, either.
such lame excuses, renard! I think someone isn't being honest!
perhaps... this one has something to do with it
you don't know what you're talking about, coyote


oh really?
you never could resist a pretty girl, could you?!
bad dog!
SPANK!
ay ay! hahaha!
Raaaagh!


oh really?
you never could resist a pretty girl, could you?!
bad dog!
SPANK!
ay ay! hahaha!
Raaaagh!


FZZAK
Reynarôme.
SKANG
SHING


FZZAK
Reynarôme.
SKANG
SHING


stop!
BAP
CRUNCH
m-my lord...
my sincerest apologies!
poor ysengrm is so easy to rile these days!


stop!
BAP
CRUNCH
m-my lord...
my sincerest apologies!
poor ysengrm is so easy to rile these days!


apologies to you, too, abalone
my nose has a mind of its own!
this is true
you cannot trust the people of this place.
come visit me in my forest where we may talk.
no harm will come to you, I swear it.
you will forgive me if I don't immediately believe the word of the trickster.
at the very least I think I would have to wear trousers.
ahaha ha!
yes! good, good!
it appears this has all been a grand misunderstanding! and so, we shall leave!
james, I would appreciate an escort out of this rabbit warren.
uh... of course.


Uhh... what the hell just happened?
a fairly transparent ruse
ysengrin dropped something during his attack
aye they appear to be seeds.
I'll have some people look into them.
any words of wisdom, jones?
ysengrin is drawing closer to the brink of insanity
the way he has distorted his body. .
I've seen similar, but nothing quite like that.
coming from you that disturbs me greatly.


miss carver.
It is a pleasure to meet you.
my daughter, janet is in your class
yes, sir.
do you realise how many people could slap a creature like coyote on the rump and live to tell of it?
Ha Ha Ha Ha
tell me, do you find strange things seem to happen around you?
...
on occasion.


so you didn't get into trouble or anything?
no.
In fact, the headmaster said I should meet with parley and andrew next year and maybe join them in some lessons
well that's cool. you get to hang out with some older kids.
when school starts up again, I mean.
say, are you going to be okay here on your own?
I'll be fine. It's only until my father contacts me.
until then I'll have reynardine for company.
that's not very comforting!


hey, you should go see mort cos he looooooves you!
well see.
it won't be any fun without you.
well be back before we know it.


TAP
TAP
has katerma left?
yes just now.
aren't you going to ask me what I did? what law I broke?
in your own time


CARVER
you stole that from the parents of your closest friend?
Be quiet, Reynardine.


thus ended my first year at gunnerkrigg court.
and so did I wait for word from my father
unaware that I would not hear from him for over two years

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 15:

Red Returns




throughout the summer I realised the similarities between Gunnerkrigg Court and Good Hope, the hospital in which I used to live.
she'll be here soon!
I can't wait!
me neither!
PLAP PLAP PLAP
sometimes, in the wrong, never ending corridors.
I could imagine I was at home.
PLAP PLAP PLAP


a while into the holiday I was moved to the new dorms.
they were situated much farther into the court
and I moved in before anyone else
but even then it did not take me long to feel settled.
CARVER


there was, however, one thing I never had in good hope
KNOCK KNOCK
bonjoornay!
XL
ah! annie, what's wrong?!
n-nothing, why?
a true friend.


Oh, Kat, it's wonderful!
What is it, Annie?!
It's a masquerade ball mask
People sometimes wear them at parties, Shadow 2
there were so many nice ones! I got one too.
I bet yours has feathers
and a lil beak!
haha!


here is something for you.
ooh, what's inside?
XL
whaa?! so many tiny paper stars!
how long did this take you?!
well about six weeks.
haha .
uh
and he didn't even call or anything, the whole time?
no
annie..
I know.
well, I'm not leaving you here on your own again.


at least I wasn't completely alone.
oh yeah. shadow 2 s sound ng much better now!
annie and I have been practicing a lot!
he and robot are best frienas now
and reynardine? he's being pretty quiet
oh, he's in the naughty zone right now.
he's not allowed to speak
isn't that right, reynardine?
you just bought yoursel another hour, mister.


the day before year 8 began, the rest of the students arrived
there was an assembly to welcome us to the start of a new year
man, talk about BOOORING.
that residential sounds interesting.
yeah! a whole week of camping!
It's you!

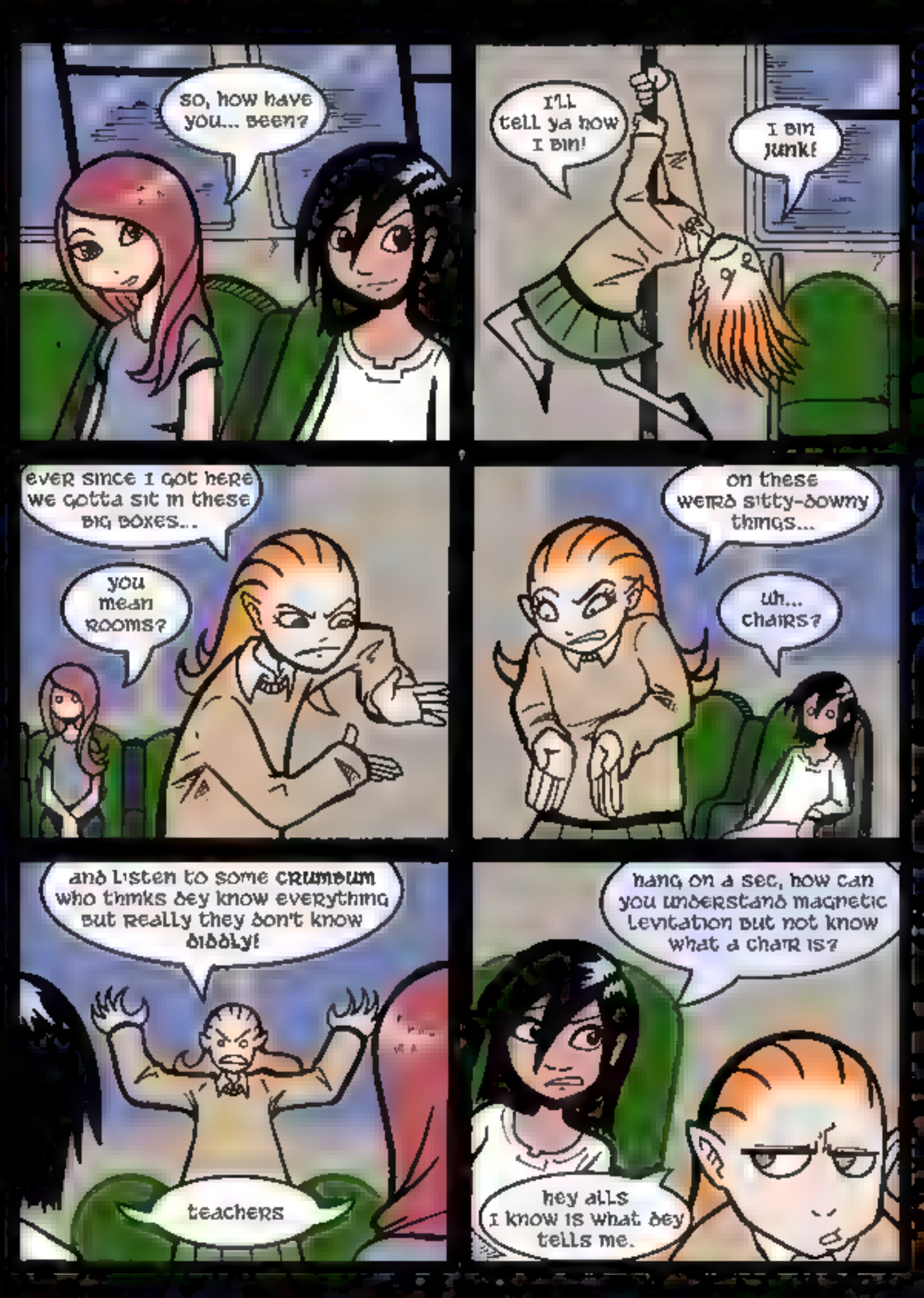

I almos dint recognise you wid all dat crap on your face!
hey!
you tricked me!
you said dis place was fun, but it ain't!
oh! you're that fairy from the river!
I used to be soooo beautiful
now lookit me!
lookit how faaat I am!!
stop that! why are you doing that?!
argh!!


and look at my big, stupid face!
and my hair!
my hair!
it don't stick up no more!
annie, this girl is insane!
I'm all alone! all alone because of my hair!
you're alone because you're insane!
isn't your friend with you?
the, um.. blue one?
ahh! don't talk about her!
there she is!
she won't be my friend anymore!


ah!
hello again!
shaddap, you!
oh, just go away!
no, you go away!
come back!
RRaaRRghh! I hate her so much!
I wish she was my friend!
KICK!
damn my hair to hell and back and some other places too!


I'm sure your hair isn't the only reason she's avoiding you.
perhaps if you calmed down a little...
no! It's my hair!
she always loved my hair and now that it ain't all sticky uppy she hates me!
I want to die! for propers this time!
well, you can always get your hair cut.
but I don't think that ..
what? I can get my hair what?!
cut
if it is shorter you can make it stick up... I suppose
you can do that? you can cut hair?!
yeah, I was gonna get mine done today.
you can come with us if you like.

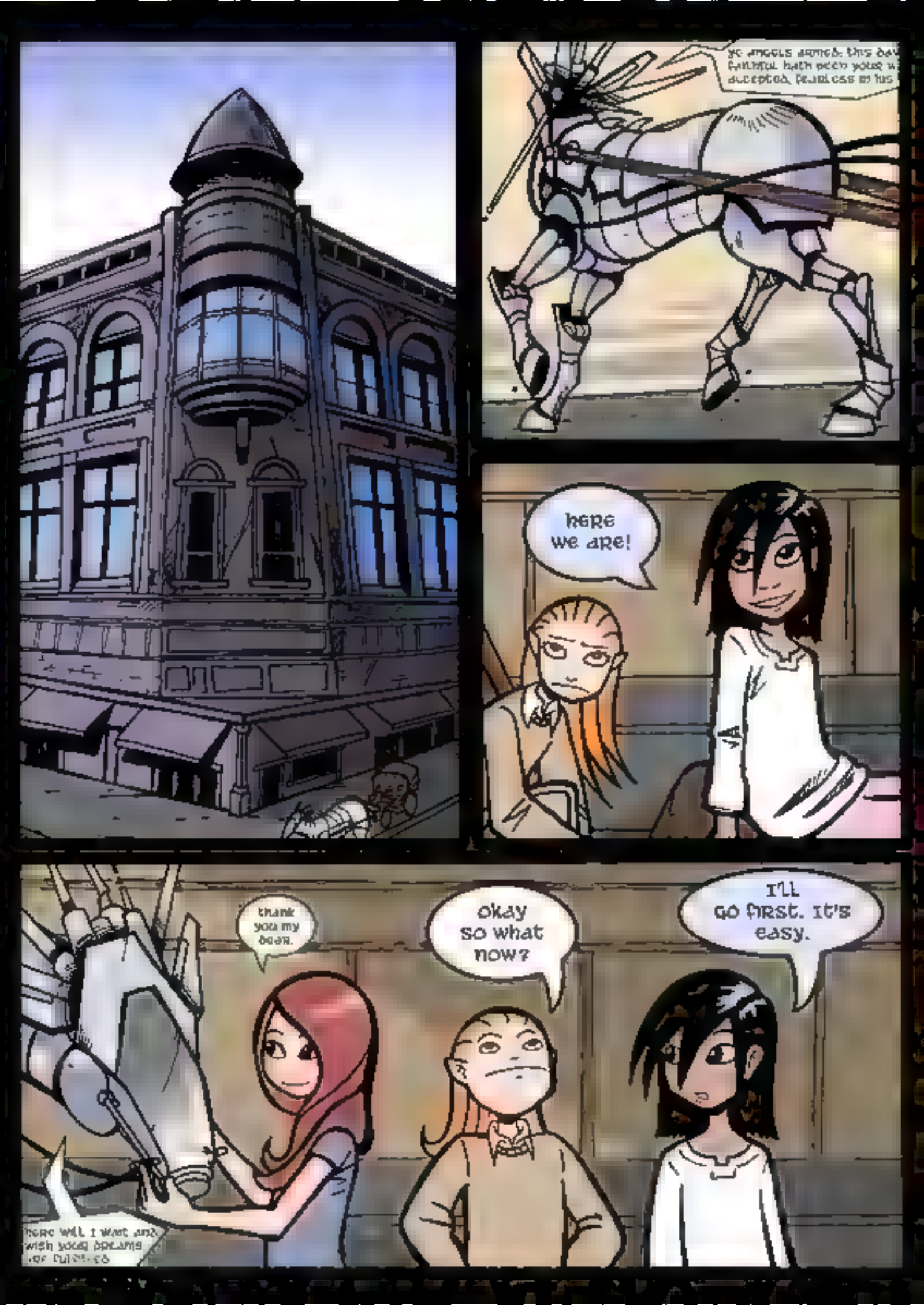

UNDERGROUND
WAY OUT
these trains are so nice and quiet.
pff, that's because it's a Magley all the trains in the court are.


so, how have you... been?
I'll tell ya how I bin!
I bin junk!
ever since I got here we gotta sit in these big boxes...
you mean rooms?
on these weird sitty-downy things...
uh... chairs?
and listen to some crumbum who thinks dey know everything but really they don't know diddly!
teachers
hang on a sec, how can you understand magnetic levitation but not know what a chair is?
hey alls I know is what dey tells me.

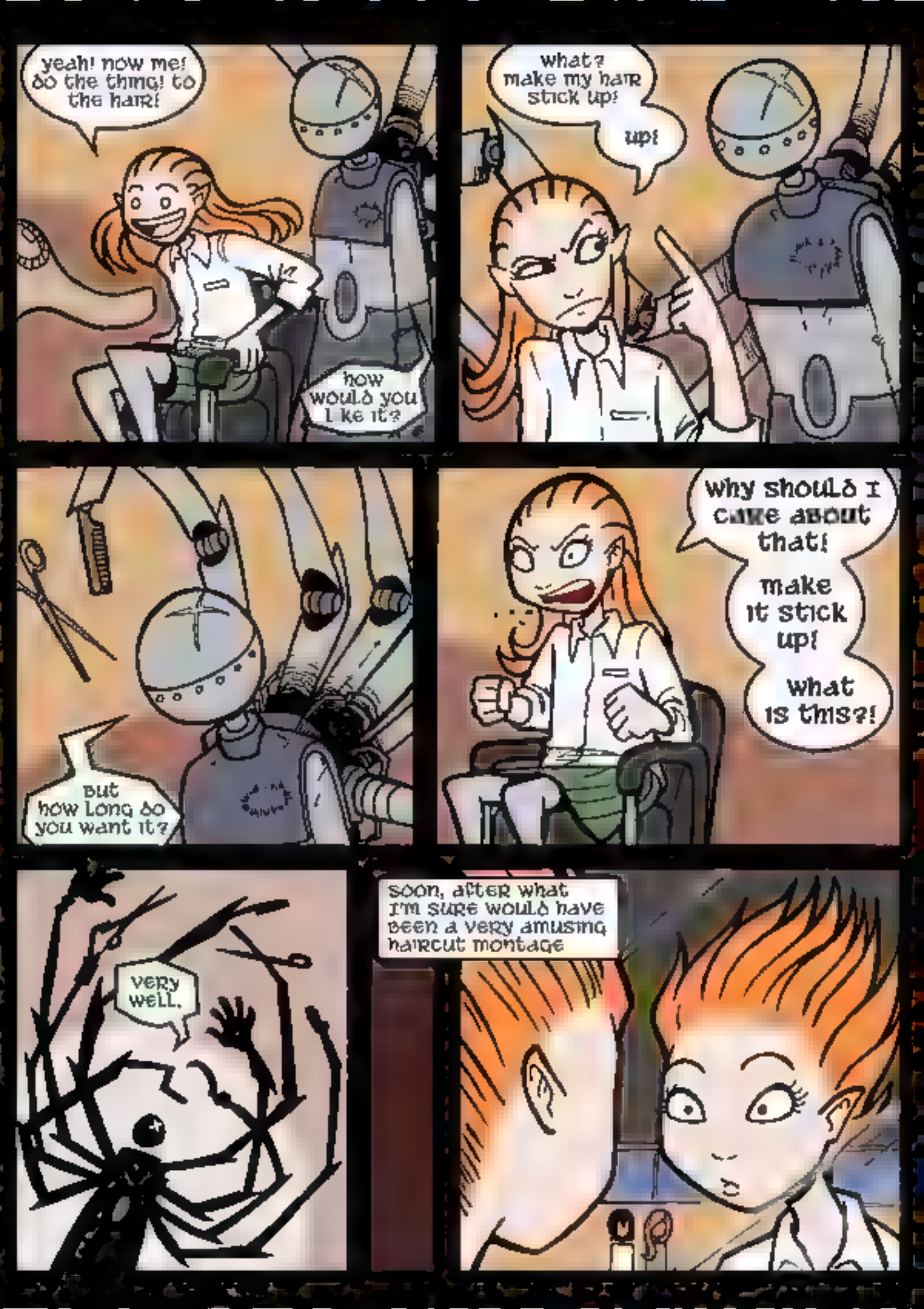

EXIT
are there lots of students who used to be fairies?
nah, just us girls in foley house.
what about the boys?
oh they were a bunch of different stuff.
one guy was a fish! haha!
whrrr
whrrr
and how come you guys are wearing uniforms already?
school doesn't start properly 'til tomorrow
whrrr
huh? we always wear dem. school hain't never finished.
whrr
whr
you mean you didn't get a summer holiday?!
a what-er what-iday?!

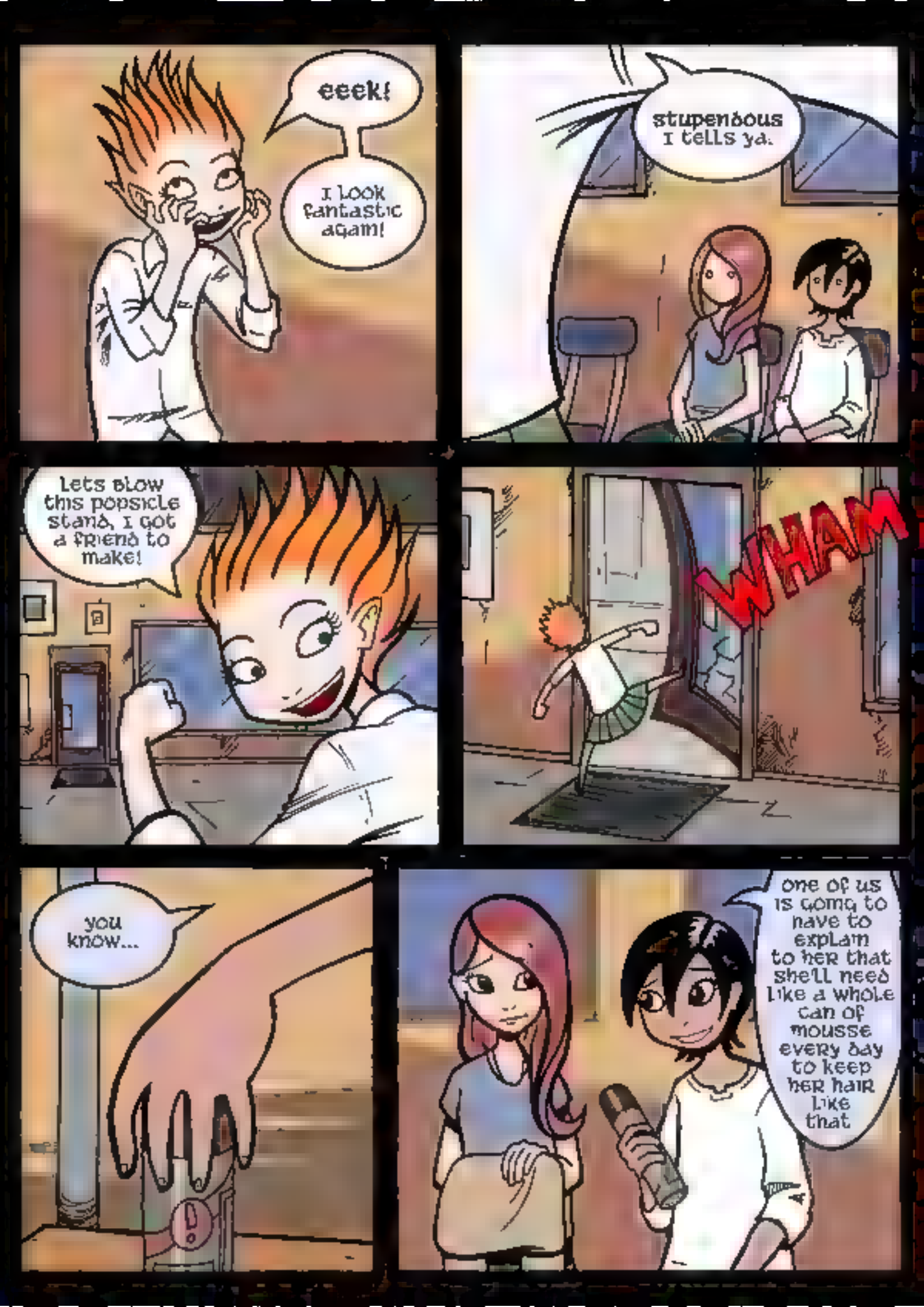

so when did you um... pass your test?
oh, a few minutes right after when you left
good ol' ysengrm helped us pass.
ysengrm was down there?
ayup! he came to look at that metal bird dealie.
annie, I thought you said ysengrm didn't find that bird until months after I picked you up
that's right are you sure he saw it?
sure's am sure!
he went right to it an' buried dat sucka!
then I guess he was hungry because
thank you that is all I need to know!


Clip Clop
so this means ysengrim was lying
so you know much about him?
he doesn't sound very trustworthy
so we can learn how to be human
nah. us guys who take da test live separate from da rest of da forest
and how to talk all proper nice like sortes.
TRUNDLE


here we are!
I'll go first. It's easy.
okay so what now?
thank you my dear.


very soon
ta-daa!
very nice, kat.
aah! didn't that hurt?!
huh? of course not!
dis is amazing! I had no idea you could cut stuff off these bodies!
I gotta try dis!
no!


yeah! now me! do the thing! to the hair!
how would you like it?
what? make my hair stick up!
up!
but how long do you want it?
why should I care about that!
make it stick up!
what is this?!
very well.
soon, after what I'm sure would have been a very amusing haircut montage


eeek!
I look fantastic again!
stupendous I tells ya.
Lets blow this popsicle stand, I got a friend to make!
WHAM
you know...
one of us is going to have to explain to her that she'll need like a whole can of mousse every day to keep her hair like that


ahem
oh, hello, hello! it was nice to see you again earlier
thank you, you as well.
listen, I'm here about your friend...
oh, her.
she's not my friend.
I don't want anything to do with her anymore.
she's changed since we passed the test.
she just wants to talk.
please give her a chance
I can tell she misses you terribly


Look, you can't expect her to be your friend again just cos you changed your hair
yes I can!
now that it sticks up again she's gonna want to be my friend again straight away
Bam!
no! you have to be nice to her!
annie and I are friends because we respect each other and enjoy each other's company
yeah well that's because yer a bunch of weird faces.
all that's too complicated.
you mark my words, mister, wassername is gonna see me and come crawlin' right back!
you don't even know her name?!

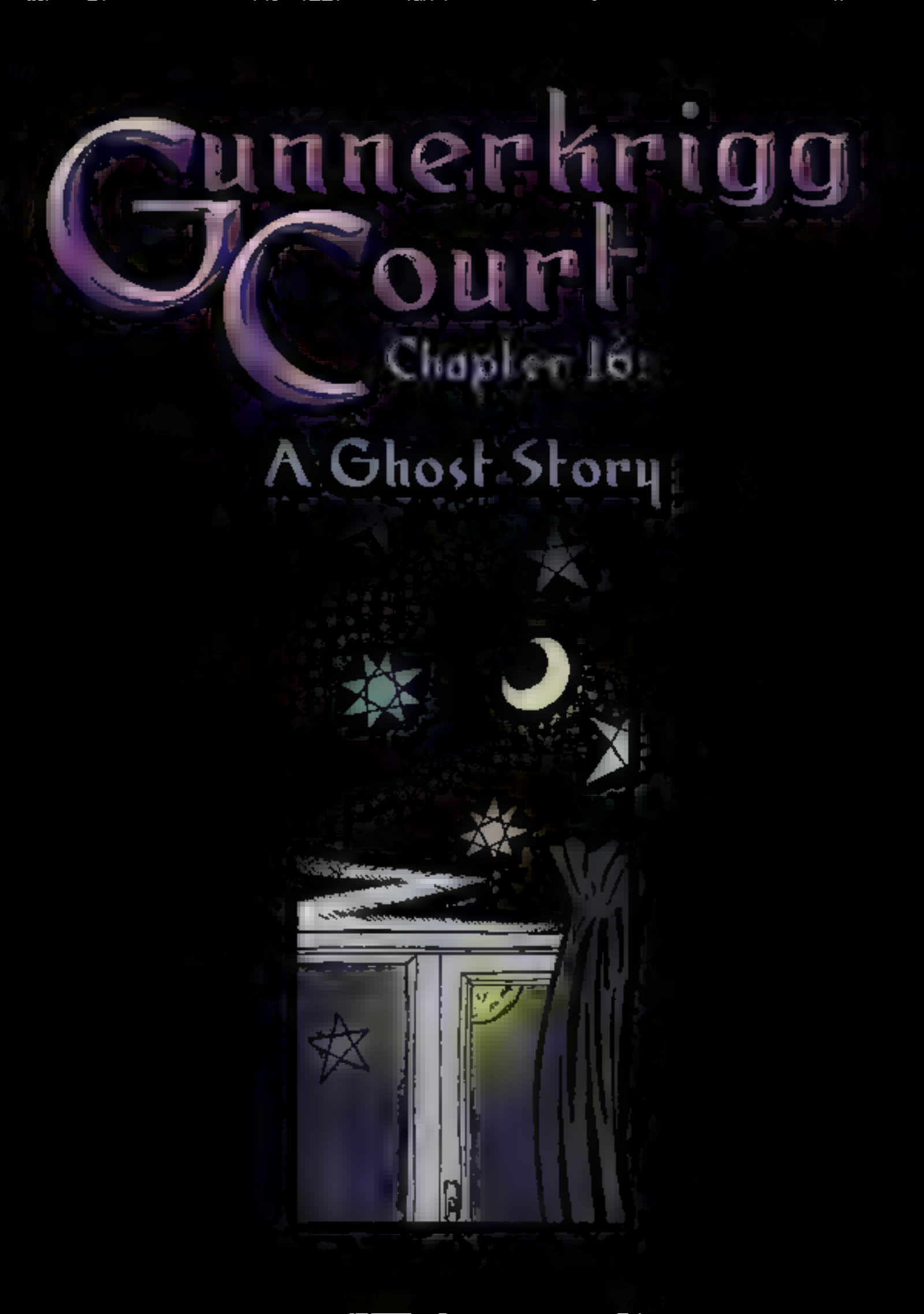

Click
gasp!
your hair!
my hair!
It goes up again!
It goes up again!
oooh! I want to be your friend!
oh please!
ahahaha!


please oh please let me be your friend!
hahaha!
you better do everything I say!
yes, of course!
like, all my homework and everything!
yes, yes!
hahahaha!
so long, jerks!
SLAM
wow...
what a bit

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 16:

A Ghost Story




BZZZZZ!
BZZZZ!
hello acam, ketrak.


there was no need to stop and see me.
I'm sure you are immensely busy as always.
hey, who're you talkin' to?
kat, do you remember I told you about psychopomps?
uh, those guys who escort dead dudes to the afterlife?
yes.
ketrak, the insect guide has paid me a visit.
you see, a fly was just killed by a spider in this tree


Say, uh .. I don't see him
do you want to?
yeah, sure, why no-
aieeee!
aaahh! ahaha hahaha!
h-how rude of me! n-nice to meet you, sir!
yes, I also think it might be best if you left. Goodbye, Ketrak.
he's gone now.
uuhhh! I need new eyes and a new brain!


you seemed like you wanted to get rid of him pretty quick.
yes, well.
you don't talk about those guys much
what's it like? talking to them
they stop by now and then. usually it's ketrak.
since something has to die nearby.
yeesh.
I suppose I'm used to their presence.
ever since meeting mumt that first time in good hope


hello!
I like your face!
why, thank you. ah! but you are sirma's daughter
you know my m... mother?
mrs.tolikna?
you are just in time! my da . father said she is leaving tomorrow
457
I do. she is a very gifted individual.
I am going to visit a friend in room 426 would you like to come?
she's kind of old though. she's probably asleep right now
not this night.


and you didn't know what you were visiting those people for?
no, not at first. I just assumed we were visiting friends.
and this muut guy..
he ah. has an owl head and doesn't wear a shirt, you say?
steady on there, girl!
haha!
so that's all you guys did? just visit people?
not always
one night, shortly after meeting muut

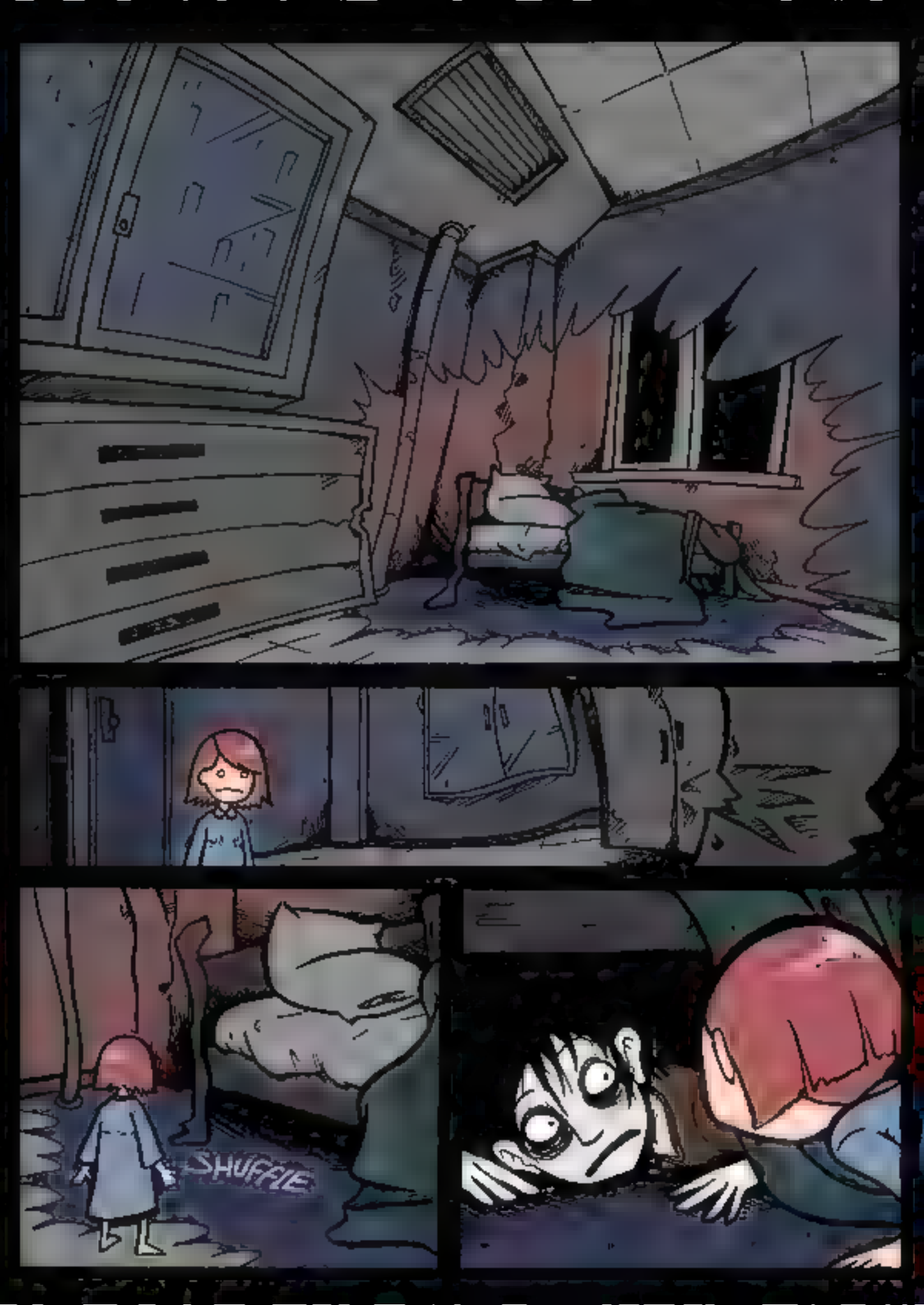

she is so young.
I already allow you to take her on your visits
does she really need this?
come now, you knew it was inevitable.
sooner rather than later, yes, dear?
if you was to come the matter would be settled right quick.
you know I would be of no use to you. not anymore.
all she got to do is be there. the rest will sort itself out.
antimony, come up here, poppet.


oooh, a doggie.
dearest, this is mallt-y-nos and the moosey shoo.
evenin'
they are having a problem, you see a d'spute.
would you like to help them?
yes
then you must always remember one thing ..


so good of yeh to come, pup. time wears thin.
child, there is a boy here in the hospital who has lost his way
he should be coming with me but this mangey mutt here is also trying to claim him.
quit yer noise, yeh old bat! the boy has every right to choose twixt you'er I.
there were a most disfortunate accident. his family was taken right away but the boy was brought here to good 'ope.
is he sick?
not anymore but now he's stuck.


his pappy was my friend, and the woman belonged to the mobbey dhoo, here.
the boy's sister chose to stay beside her mother
therefore it is only fair that the boy himself come with me.
ow!
I'll nip yeh harder next time!
hehe!
in this circumstance 'e's allowed ta make a choice, being born of two jurisdictions.
tekmally, contracts of location and ownership be... uh...
SWISH
ahaha hehe!


she isn't even listening! surma was right, she's too young!
noo! I want to help!
then pay attention! we have arrived.
STORE ROOM
one more thing, pup.
the boy doesn't know he has passed on.
CLICK
passed on what?


SHUFFLE


quick! hide!
what's wrong?
there is a scary witch with a big dog outside my room!
they keep trying to get m
oh, that's just mathilda and shoo. they won't hurt you.
they just want to help.
i want to help too.


aahh! what are you doing?!
I'm SORRY!
I don't know what happened!
get away from me!
get ..
get away
come back!
what?!


SHUFFLE
hey, look.
wanna see something cool?


I don't like it.
come on, I think it's great!
CHK CHK
CHK
CHOMP
ow! hey!
SMAT


ow ow, jeez!
KRIK


EEEEEE
OH NO
OH NO OH NO
MUM AND DAD
ARE GONNA BE
SO MAD!
UAGH!
MAKE IT
STOP!

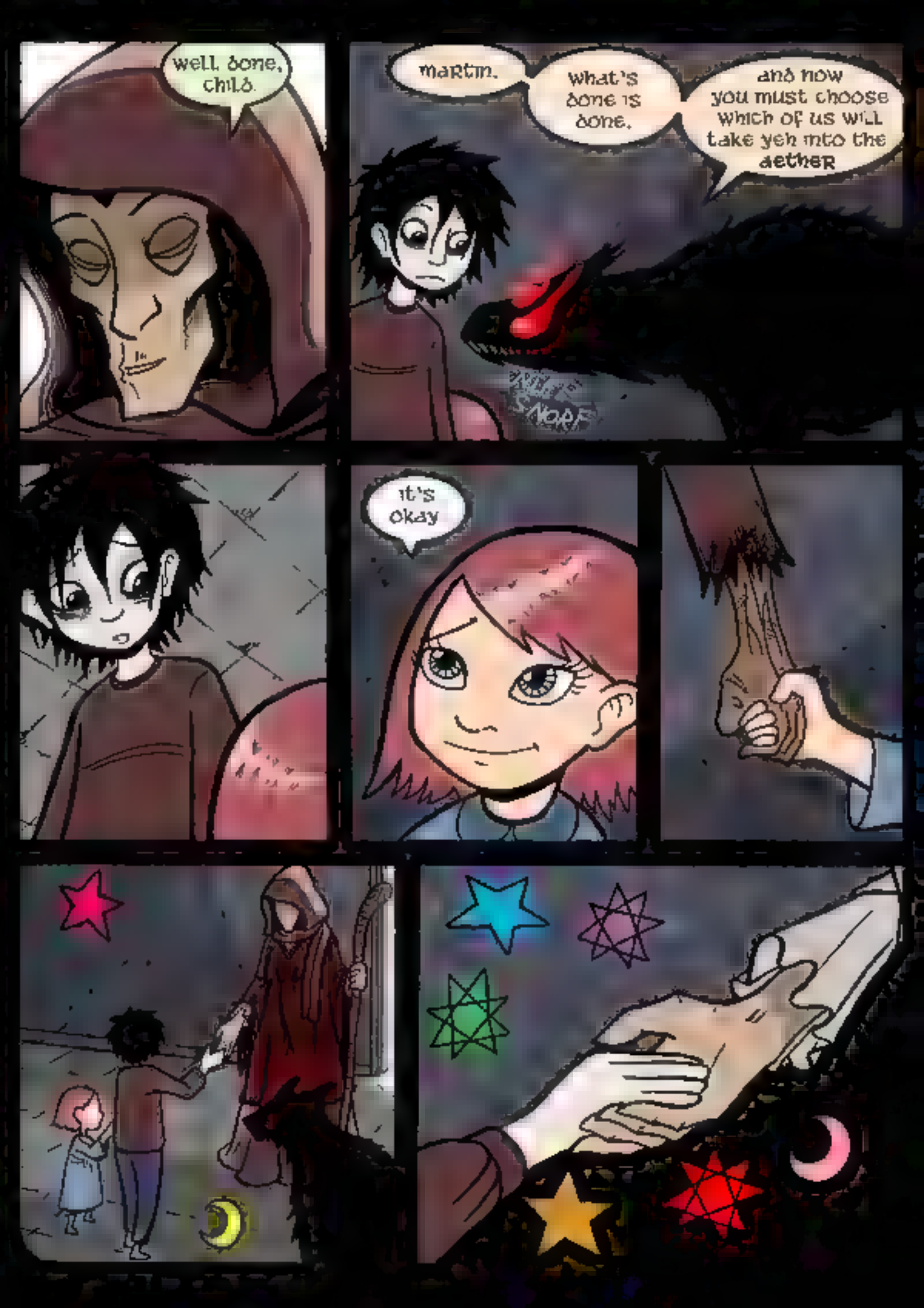

What what do I do?
I'm supposed to help, but...
this stuff doesn't come near me... but what is it?
something, dangerous, . and it moves, and covers everything..
and it GROWS
and that horrible noise! it's like an alarm
BEEEEBEEE
FIRE...


it's fire! you were playing with fire!
and that noise is a fire alarm!
ahhhh!
nooo!


what do I do what do I do!
always remember one thing..



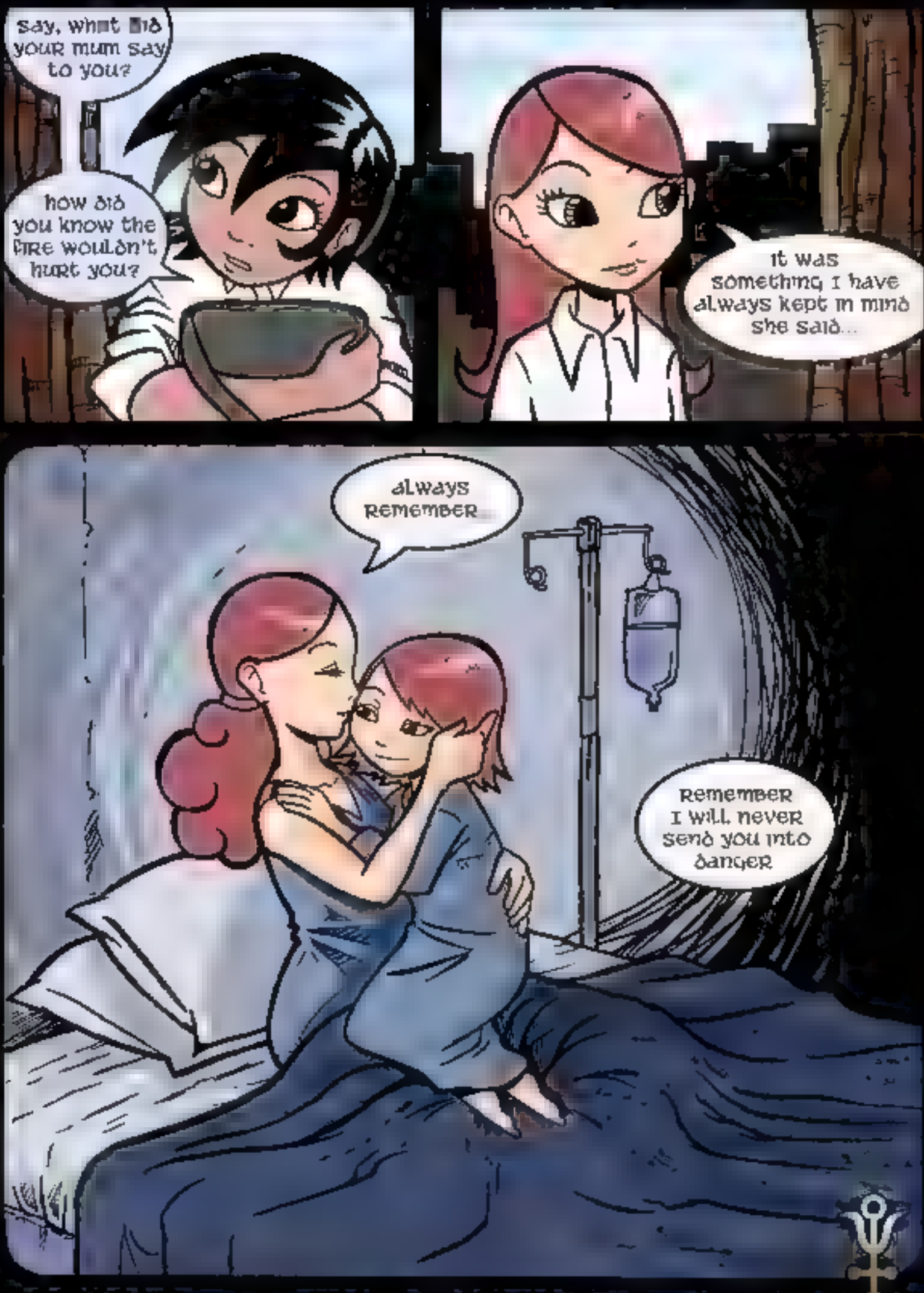

what did I do?
something really bad
but you didn't mean to It was an accident
my family..
I-I think they are with my friends.


well done, child.
martin.
what's done is done.
and now you must choose which of us will take yeh into the aether
SNORF
it's okay


oh my god, annie. that boy burned his house down?
yes all because he made a mistake.
that's so..
I mean it seems so...
unfair?
I remember something shoo told me after he brought me back to my mother
the world continues to spin, pup.
the boy and his family will ensure it


what does that even mean?
I'm not sure. consolation, perhaps?
implying there is another realm of existence?
maybe it was a reference to this aether he mentioned.
this kinda remmds me of the ghost with the sword you met at the annan waters
oh?
yeah, you said your psychopomp friends couldn't help her, right?
so what if she's stuck too?


If that's the case then she might not even know why she is down there.
and she's probably been there a really long time
it's kinda sad..
I should have tried to help her...
RRP
Instead I was a fool and became scared when I thought she had cut me
I should have faced my fear, as I did with martin...
What?! come on, she tried to stab you in the face!


Say, what did your mum say to you?
how did you know the fire wouldn't hurt you?
it was something I have always kept in mind she said...
always remember
Remember I will never send you into danger

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 17:

The Medium Beginning

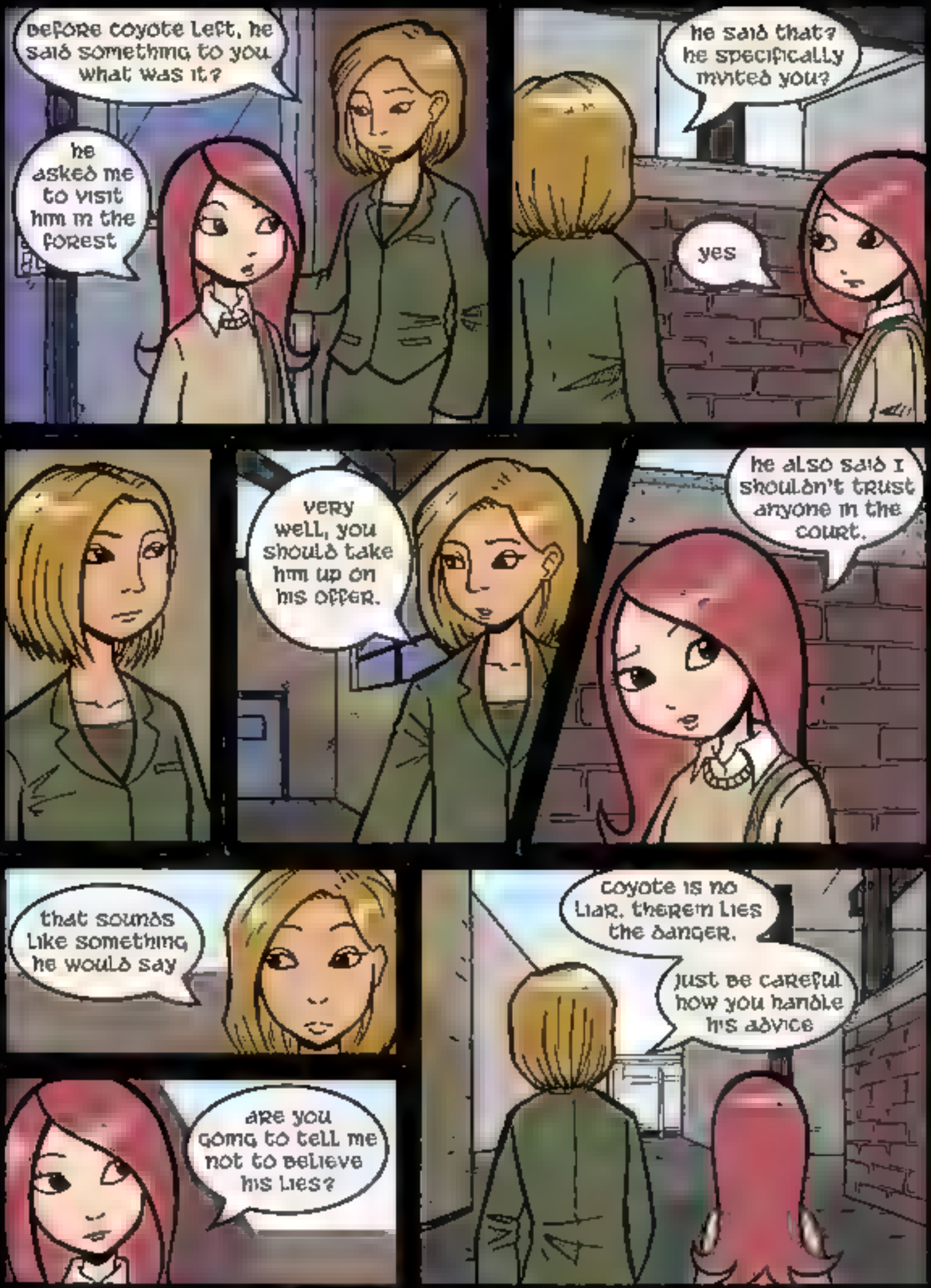


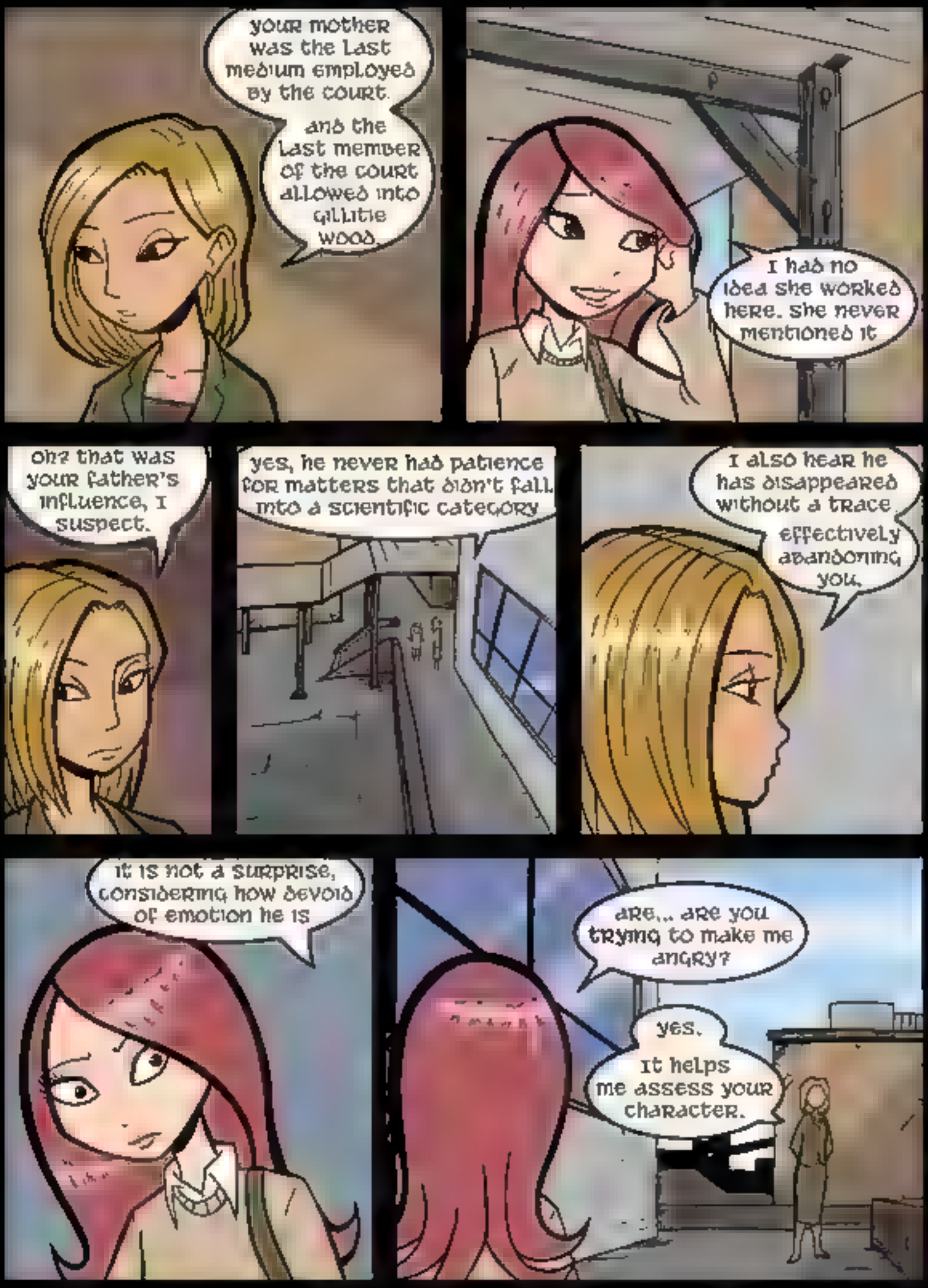

hana, awesome-o.
come on, annie. you don't want to miss the practical!
yes, I'm just going over my answers

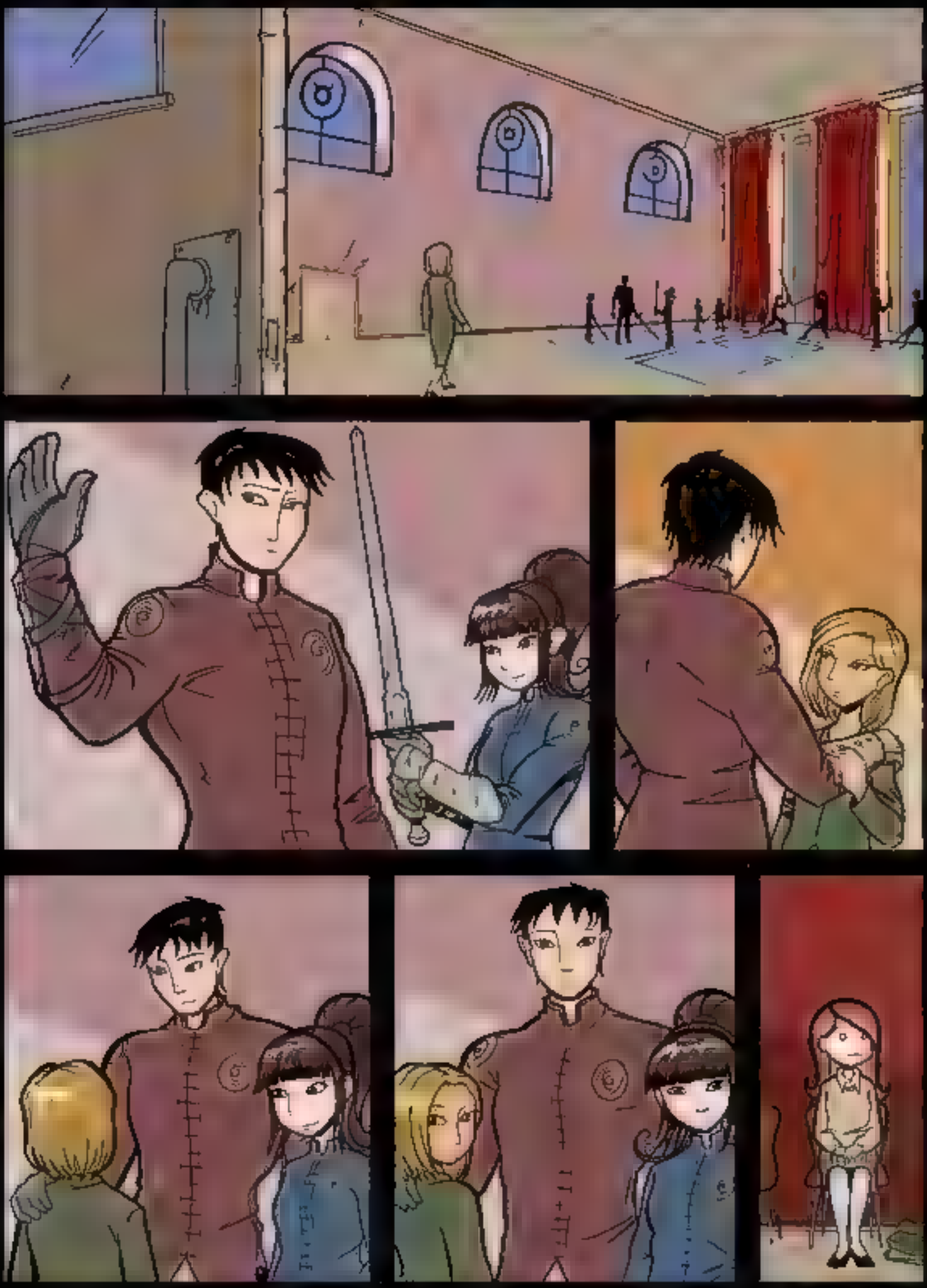

Katerina Donlan
Answers
SHFF
COR, LOOK at HER!
IS She a teacher?
I dunno, man, never seen her before.


collect your things and come with me, please, antimony.
hey, what's going on?
that was miss jones, from the meeting with coyote.
oh, cool! maybe you'll see those older guys again.
perhaps. now, don't get too bored without me.
haha! one does not get "bored" in double physics!
TAP
quite...


miss jones.
just jones will do.
have you given any thought to the headmaster's offer?
yes...
lessons in mediation sound interesting.
very good.
we will begin today.
is this what you teach? how to be a medium?
currently, amongst other things.
2F


before coyote left, he said something to you what was it?
he asked me to visit him in the forest
he said that? he specifically invited you?
yes
very well, you should take him up on his offer.
he also said I shouldn't trust anyone in the court.
that sounds like something he would say
are you going to tell me not to believe his lies?
coyote is no liar. therein lies the danger.
just be careful how you handle his advice

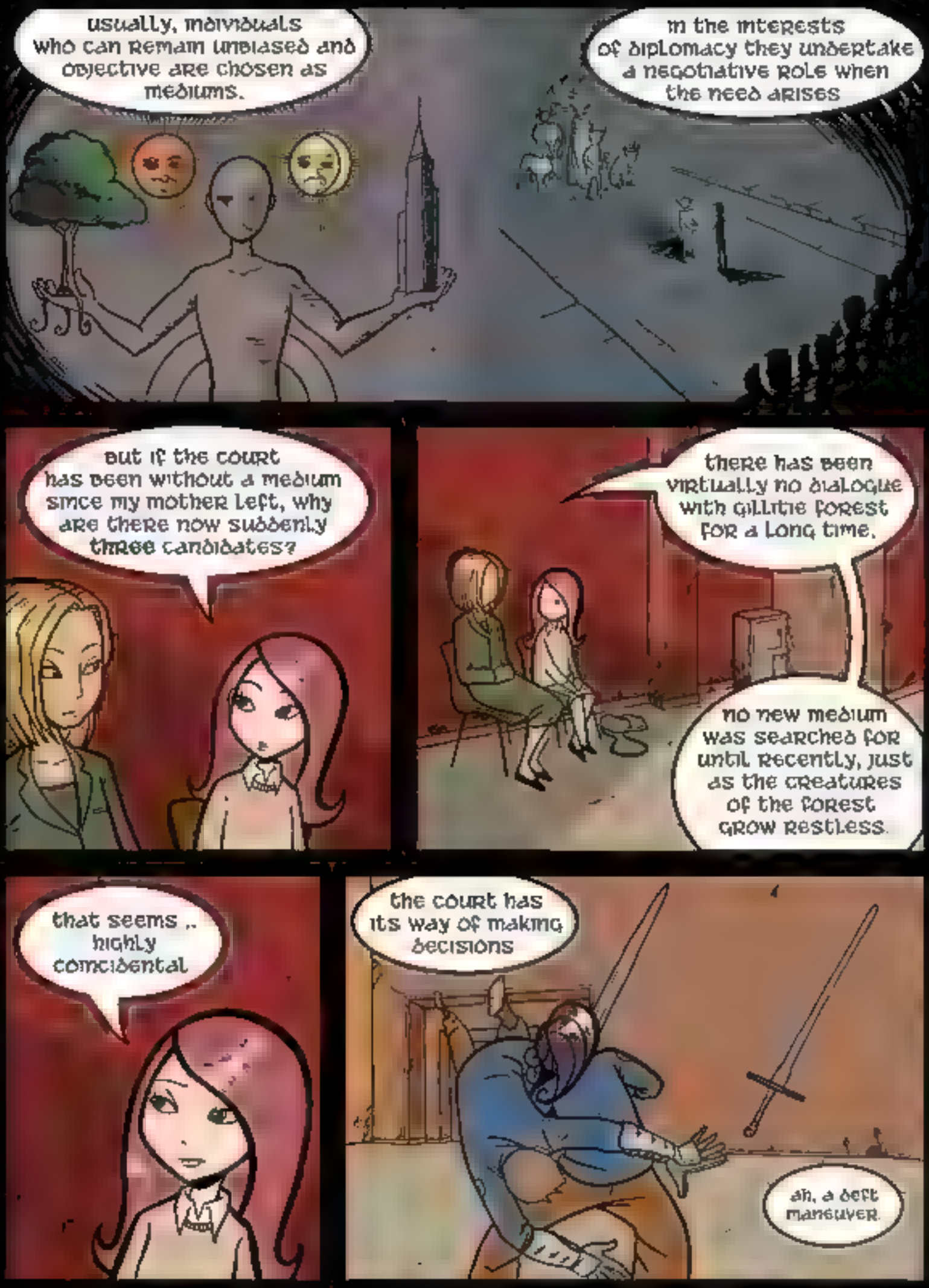

your mother was the last medium employed by the court.
and the last member of the court allowed into gillitie woods.
I had no idea she worked here. she never mentioned it
oh? that was your father's influence, I suspect.
yes, he never had patience for matters that didn't fall into a scientific category
I also hear he has disappeared without a trace
effectively abandoning you.
it is not a surprise, considering how devoid of emotion he is
are... are you trying to make me angry?
yes.
it helps me assess your character.

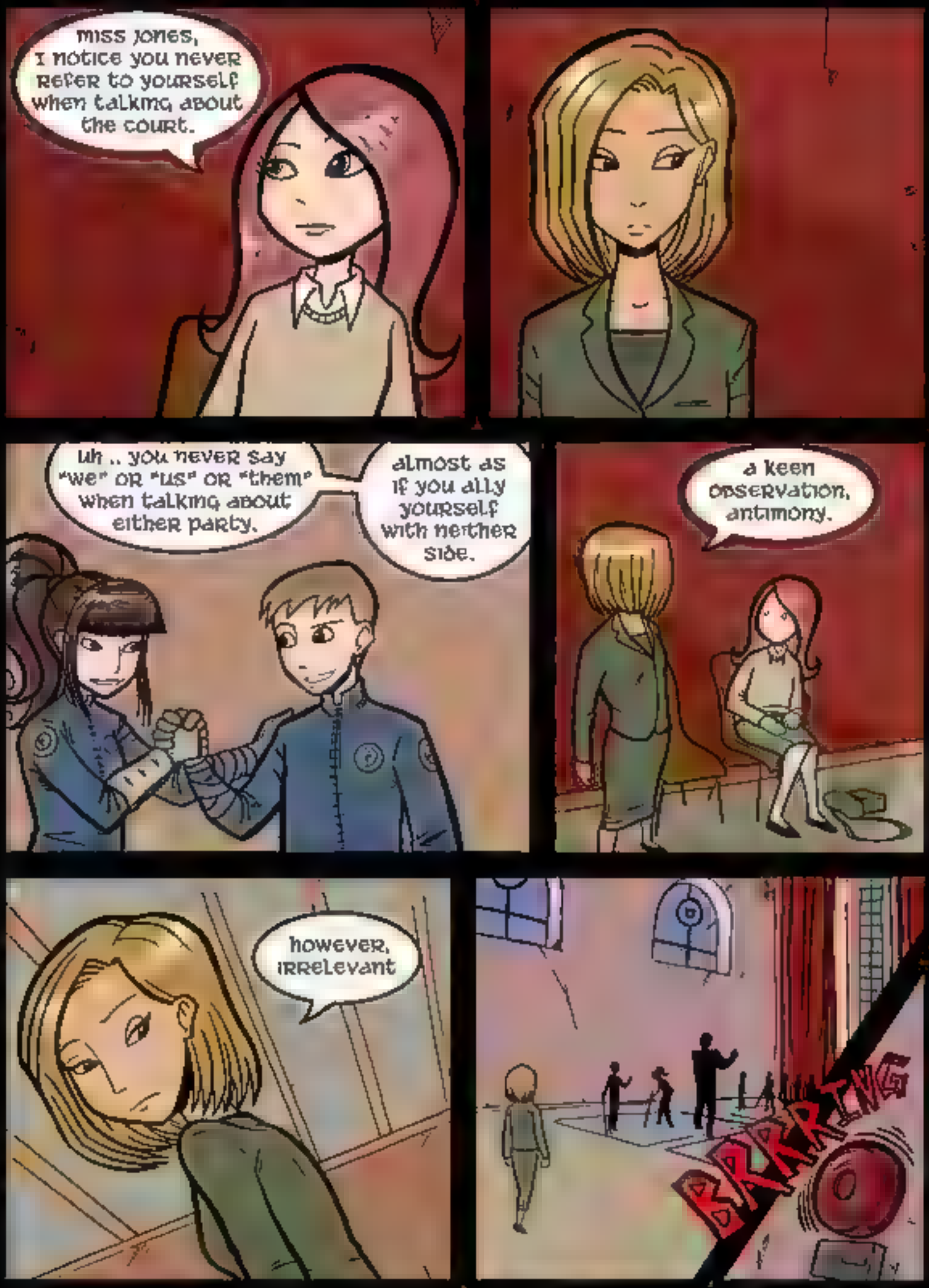



parley's lesson is almost over. we will sit and watch
they teach swordsmanship to the students?
yes. it instills a sense of self awareness and how to read an opponent's body language
you can soon take stock of a person when you give them a blade.
parley in particular is fairly skilled at liechtenauer
it matches her personality well.


I've noticed an odd duality while I've been at the court.
In the subjects taught, the students, and things... that happen.
For a school of science, there is much that science does not explain.
exactly
In the glass there. have you ever seen that symbol before?
In many places. my friend kat says it's the alchemical symbol for bismuth.
It serves as a reminder that the court was founded on a union between technological and etheric design.
etheric design?
processes unexplained by the science of man.

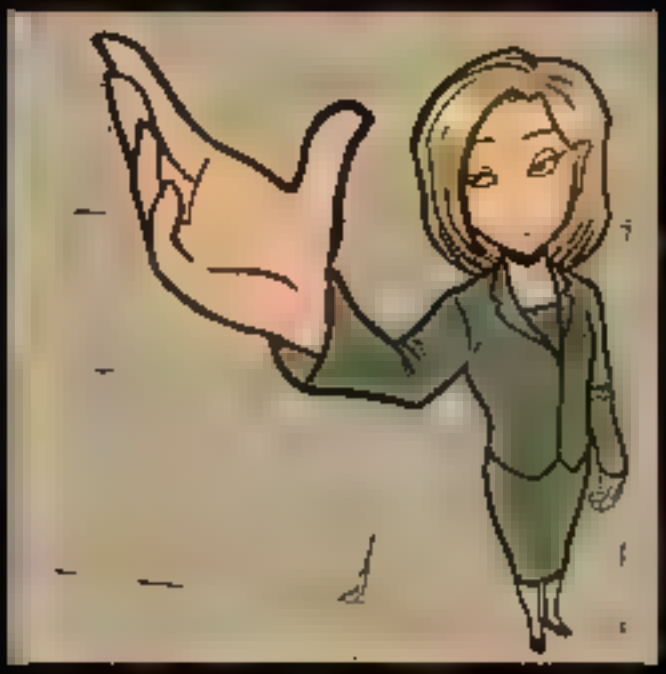

the court first took root in what was once the heart of gillitie wood.
a group of humans were offered refuge by the creatures of the forest and they worked together to create a place where they could live in peace.
but man's lust for explanation saw him grow tired of etherial tenet.
so concerned were they with the workings of the universe, some of the humans were driven to question their very surroundings.
there was a great division which saw the court and the wood separated.
nature on one side. technology on the other.
and this is where you come in.
or people like you.

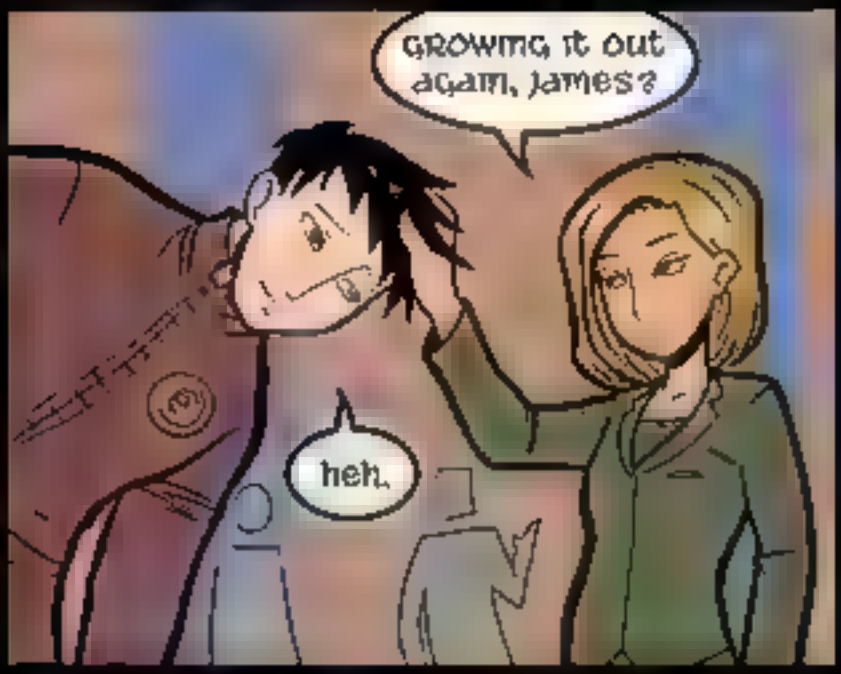

usually, individuals who can remain unbiased and objective are chosen as mediums.
in the interests of diplomacy they undertake a negotiative role when the need arises
but if the court has been without a medium since my mother left, why are there now suddenly three candidates?
there has been virtually no dialogue with gillitie forest for a long time.
no new medium was searched for until recently, just as the creatures of the forest grow restless.
that seems .. highly comcidental
the court has its way of making decisions
ah, a deft maneuver.

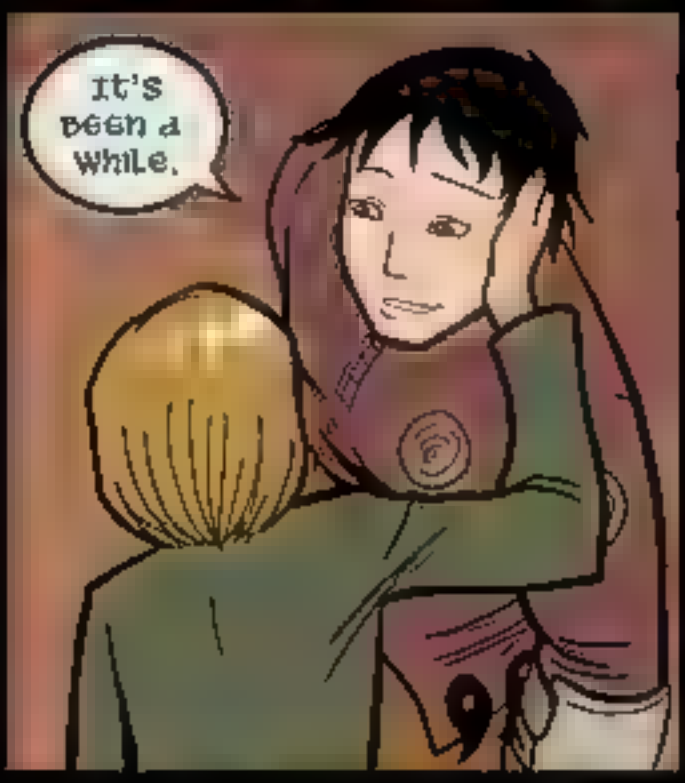

miss jones, I notice you never refer to yourself when talking about the court.
uh .. you never say "we" or "us" or "them" when talking about either party.
almost as if you ally yourself with neither side.
a keen observation, antimony.
however, irrelevant
KRRRING

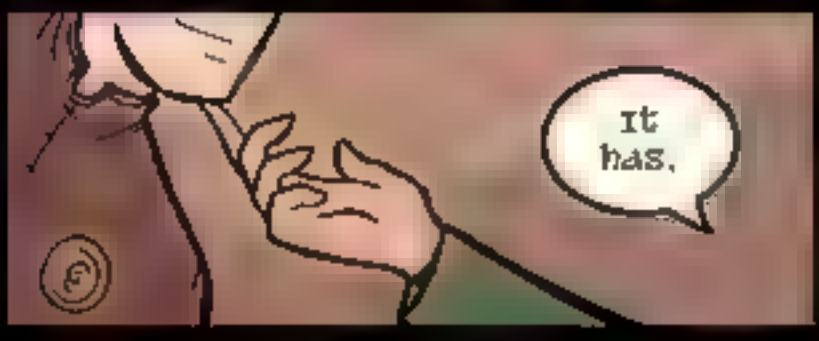

alright, pack everything away. Let's get a move on.






Growing it out again, James?
heh.


It's been a while.


It has.



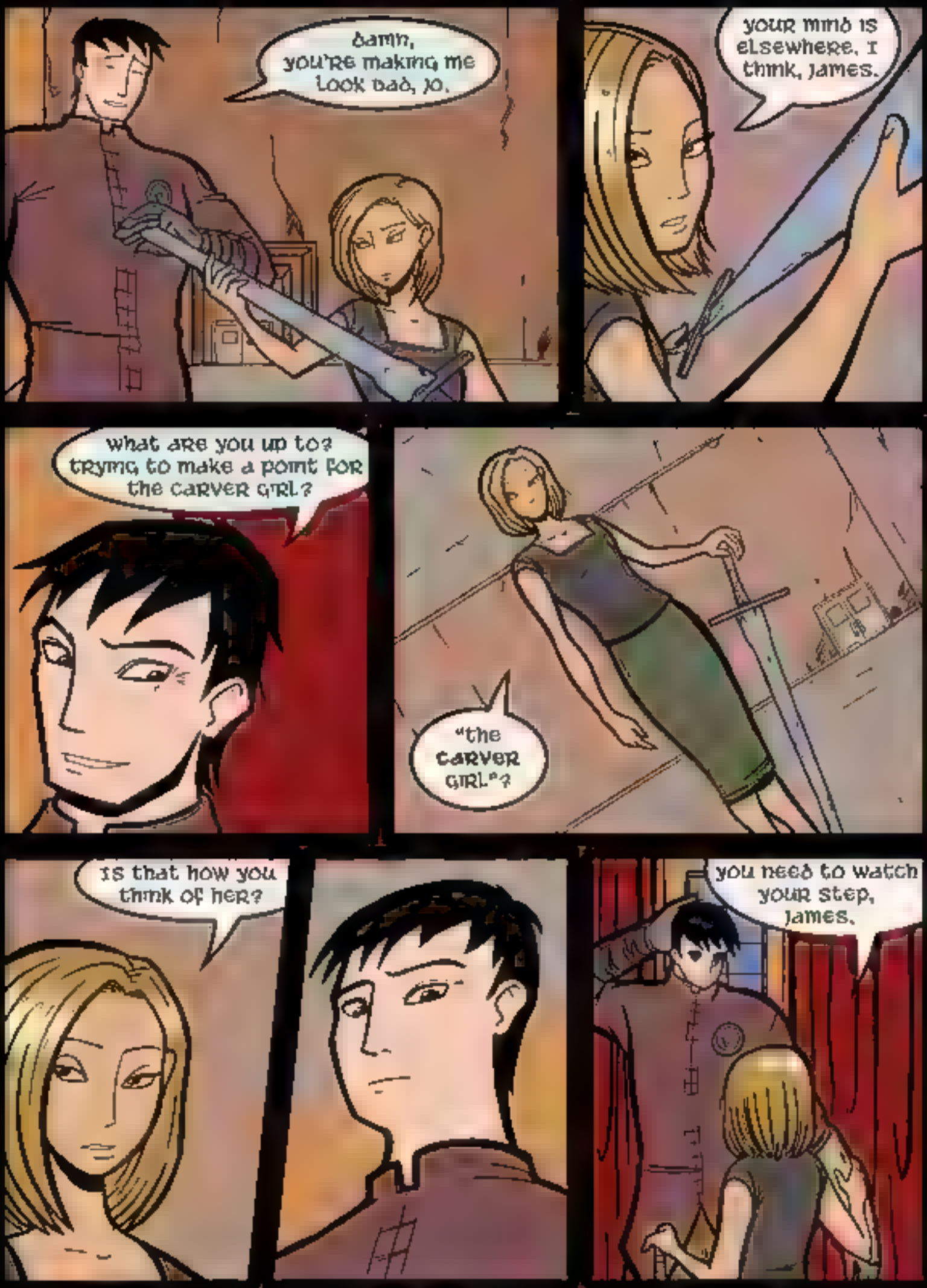

carver.
sir.
here, why don't you an' jones spar? you know, to show carver!
ah come on that wouldn't be fair.
because she is a woman?
haha! no, because mooors, and at close range, jones would flatten me.
oh.


It wouldn't be a real match, James. I can make it quick.
Oh snap, SIR! are you gonna take that?!
ahaha! them's fightin' words, Jones!
now I can't refuse!
thank you, Parley.
doesn't Miss Jones need a sword too?
nah, she never uses 'em.

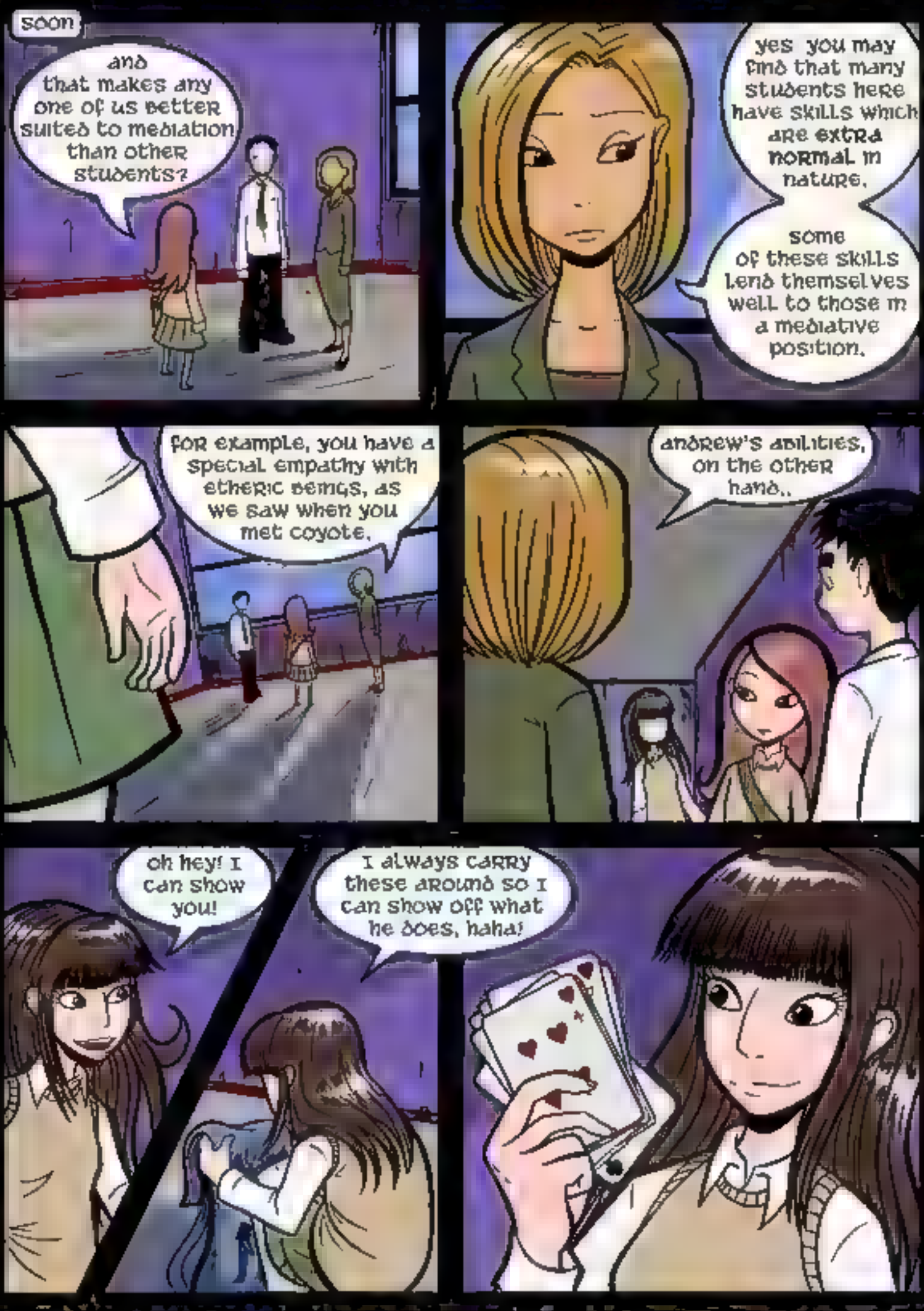

hey, smitty! just in time, big guy!
hey. hello, carver
what's going on?
eglamore and jones are having a quickie!
ah clever.
jeez, eglamore is so hot!
huh? huh?!
good summer, carver?
yes, thank you.


SKANG


Right, Right, "Quick."

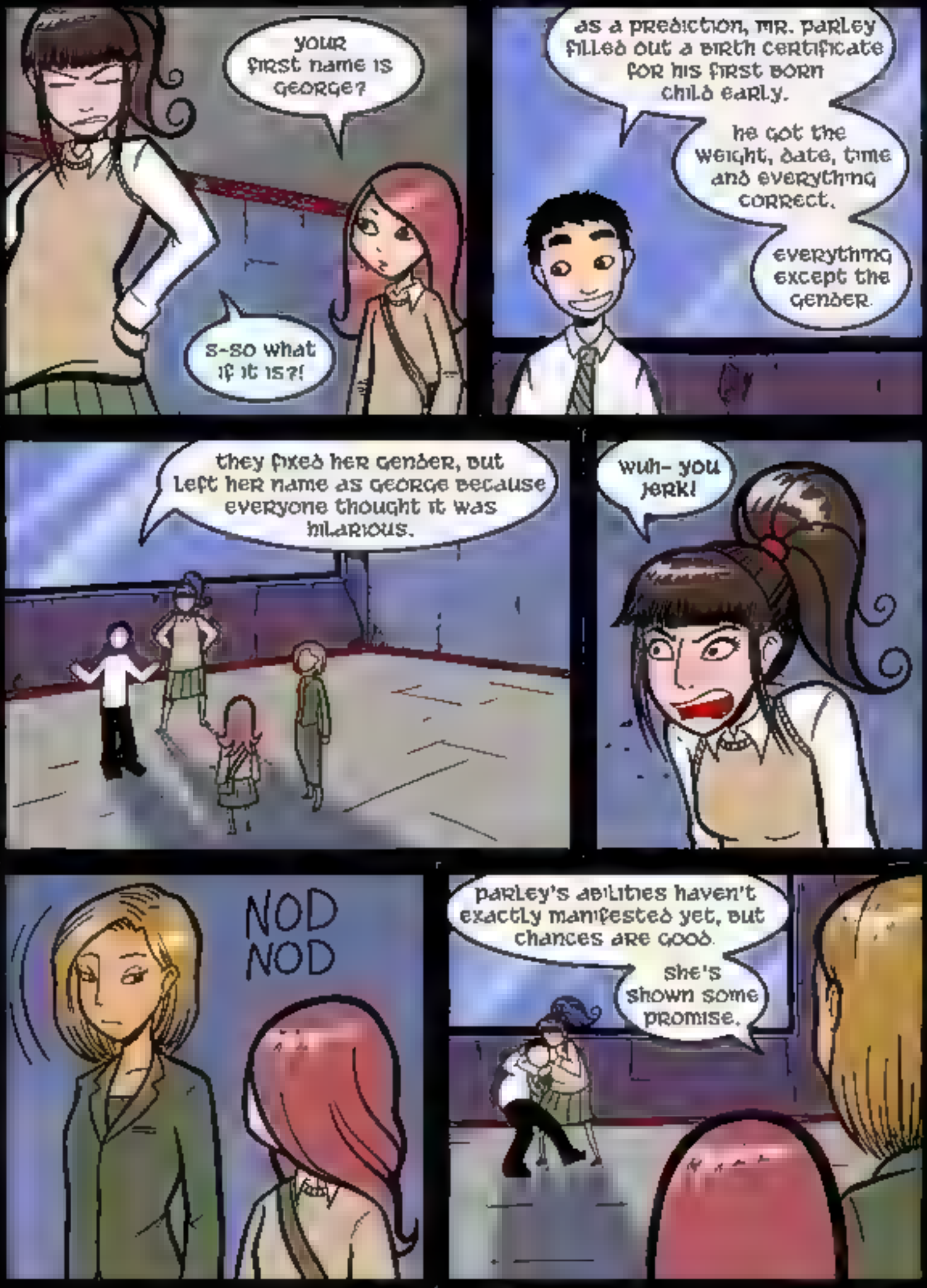

damn, you're making me look bad, jo.
your mind is elsewhere, I think, james.
what are you up to? trying to make a point for the carver girl?
"the carver girl"?
is that how you think of her?
you need to watch your step, james.

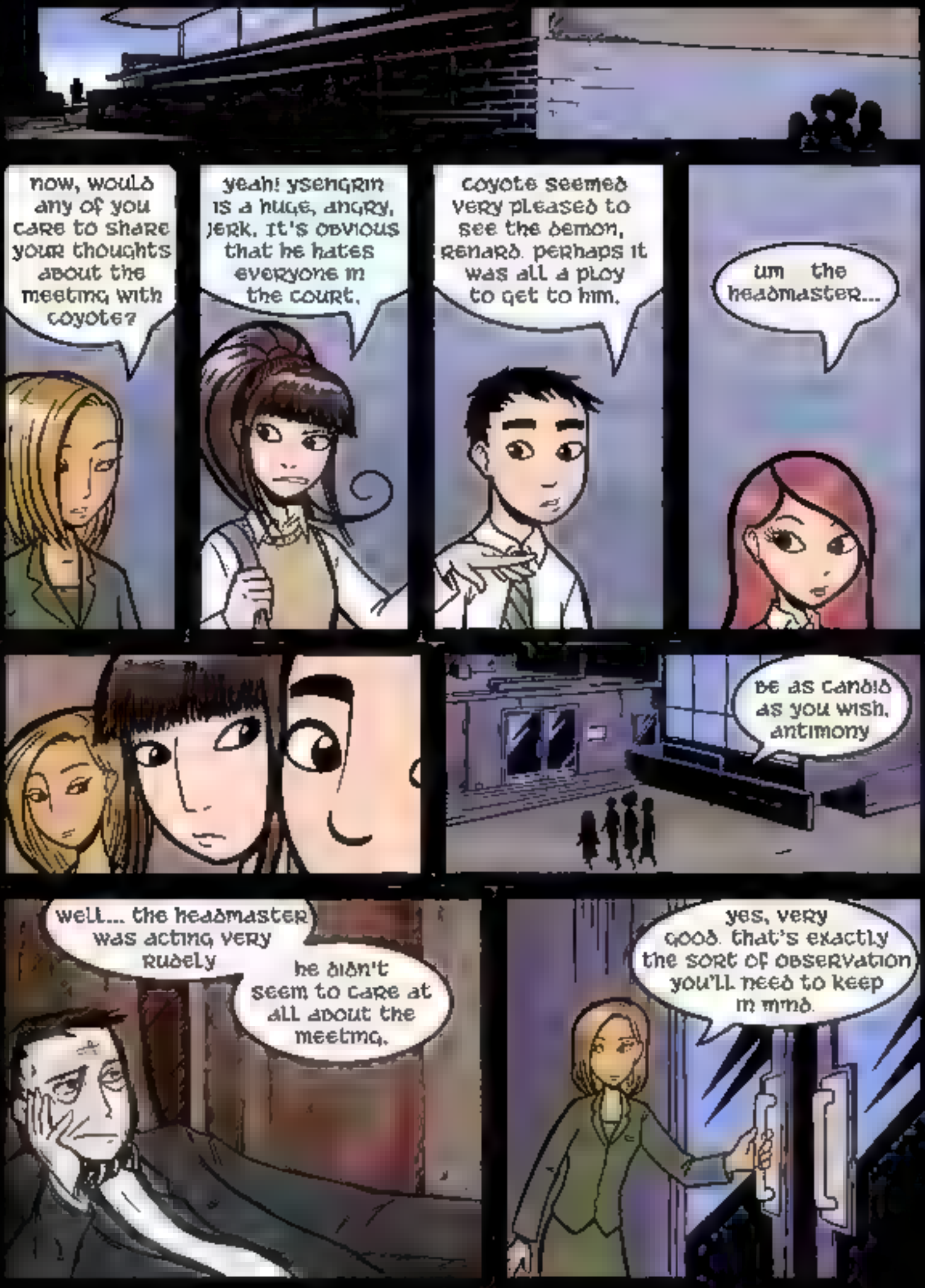

grabbing a sword by the blade isn't a valid move, is it?
it is for jones! not something you want to try yourself!
and I'm sure the blade glanced her face...
yeah, probably. oh damn, here's the next class I gotta go get changed.
try not to get too excited thinking about that, smits!


soon
and that makes any one of us better suited to mediation than other students?
yes you may find that many students here have skills which are extra normal in nature.
some of these skills lend themselves well to those in a mediative position.
for example, you have a special empathy with etheric beings, as we saw when you met coyote.
andrew's abilities, on the other hand..
oh hey! I can show you!
I always carry these around so I can show off what he does, haha!


here, q'won!
fling
2
Flip
Flip
Flip
Flip
and look! they're all in order too!
haha! It's like his super power is to make everything BORING!
It would be more diplomatic to say andrew can subconsciously create order where there was none


at least I can do something.
hey, shut up, man.
what is it you do, parley?
pfft, my dad is a certified psychic.
parley senior is the only person to have "officially" completed the eugene gould psychic challenge.
that's when they test your psychical ability in a lab
he won like five million quid cos of it
put them suckers right outta business!
yeah, he's so good he predicted his son, george would also be psychic.


your first name is George?
s-so what if it is?!
as a prediction, mr. parley filled out a birth certificate for his first born child early.
he got the weight, date, time and everything correct.
everything except the gender.
they fixed her gender, but left her name as George because everyone thought it was hilarious.
wuh- you jerk!
NOD NOD
parley's abilities haven't exactly manifested yet, but chances are good.
she's shown some promise.


now, would any of you care to share your thoughts about the meeting with coyote?
yeah! ysengrin is a huge, angry, jerk. it's obvious that he hates everyone in the court.
coyote seemed very pleased to see the demon, renard. perhaps it was all a ploy to get to him.
um the headmaster....
be as candid as you wish, antimony
well... the headmaster was acting very rudely
he didn't seem to care at all about the meeting.
yes, very good. that's exactly the sort of observation you'll need to keep in mind.

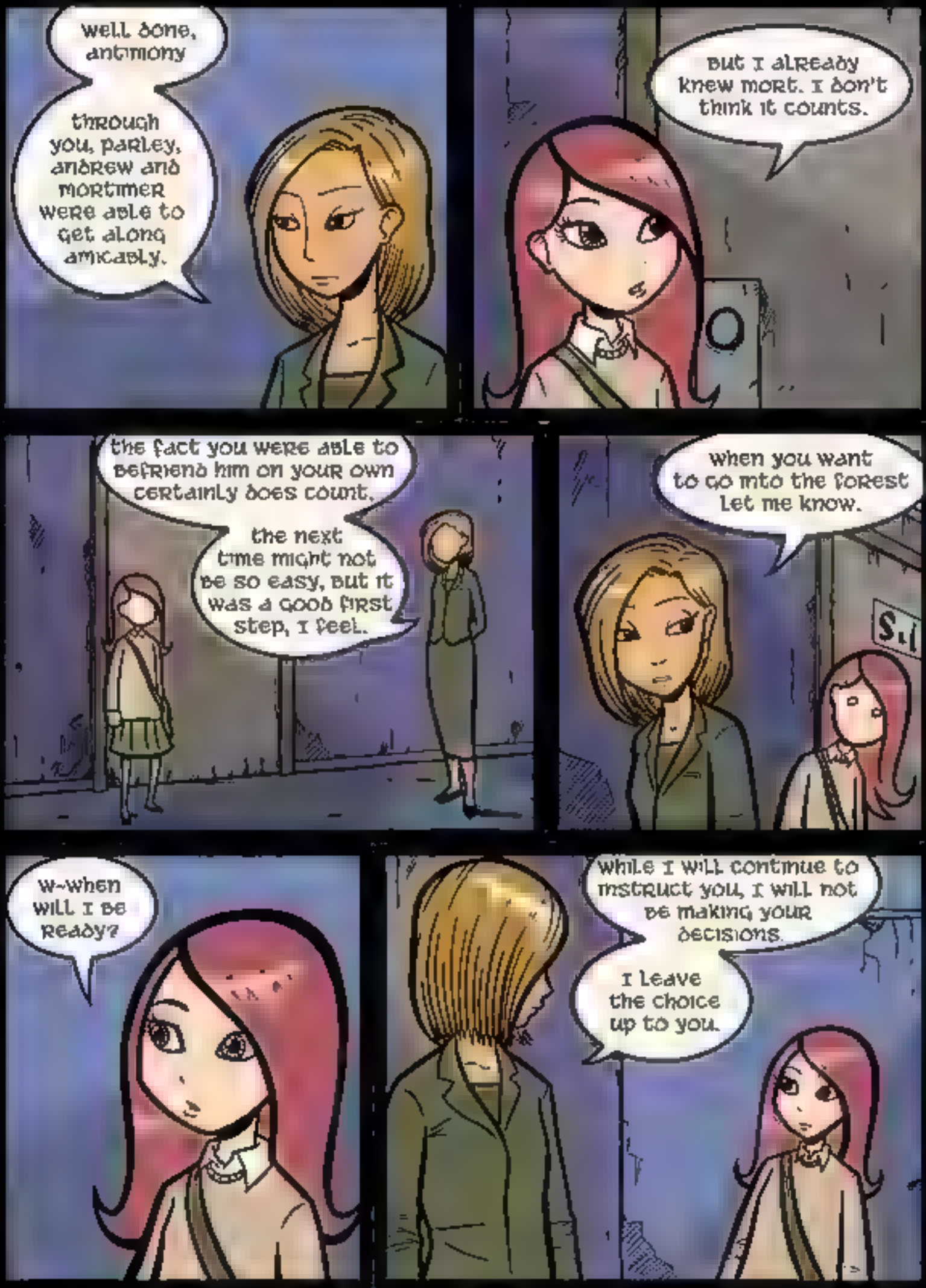

the truth is, both sides are as bad as each other.
creatures of the forest try to assert their importance by posturing and baring their teeth because that is the way of the animal kingdom.
the court, on the other hand, sees them as little more than dull minded animals trying to create a nuisance.
so, as a lesson in interplanar communication, I have arranged a meeting with a being of the etherium.

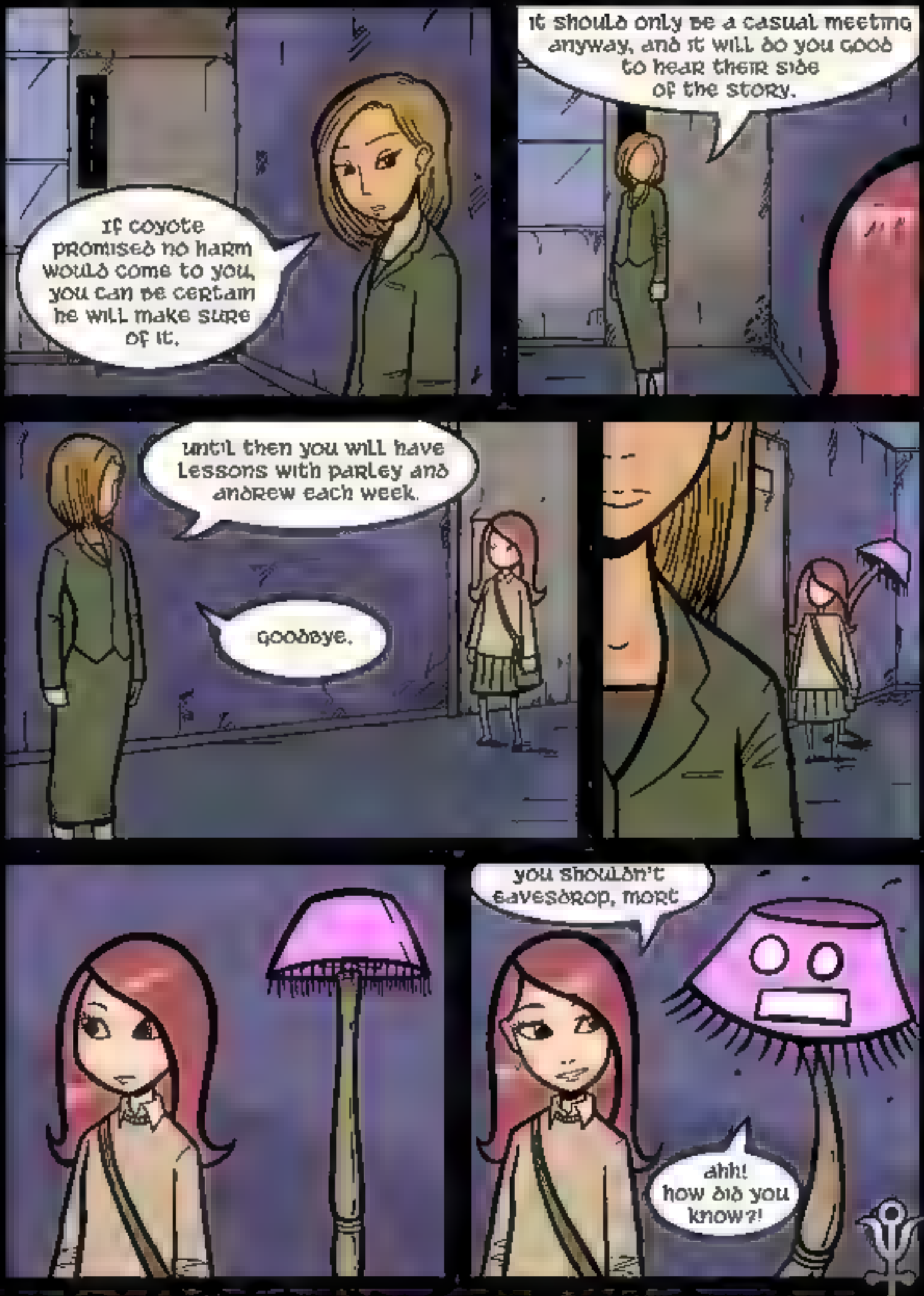

wow, a ghost!
spectral being!
do you mean us harm?!
we wish to communicate with you!
annie, why is she talking like that?
I... I'm not really sure.


what?!
antimony, you know this boy?
yes. he is a friend of mine. his name is mort.
mort, this is andrew smith
alright.
alright, mate.
and this is... um, parley
GREETINGS HUMAN PERSON!
yeah, I'm laffin'


so you're a ghost, huh? what do you do?
well, I scare people it's all very important, I assure you.
you know, when I first met annie she gave me some advice.
advice like what?
like... to be more subtle
subtle? what's that got to do with...
hwaaah!
haw
ahahaha! what else can you do?!
oh, all sorts of stuff!
Silent
it depends on the situation, ...


thank you again, mortimer.
no problem, jones
alright, see ya.
alright, mate, see ya
FAREWELL hahaha!
kat and I will stop by soon, mort.
shucks, that'd be neat.
ah! time to eat! let's go get something.
I'm not really hungry.
yeah y'are. come on.


well done, antimony
through you, parley, andrew and mortimer were able to get along amicably.
but I already knew mort. I don't think it counts.
the fact you were able to befriend him on your own certainly does count.
the next time might not be so easy, but it was a good first step, I feel.
when you want to go into the forest let me know.
S.I
w-when will I be ready?
while I will continue to instruct you, I will not be making your decisions.
I leave the choice up to you.

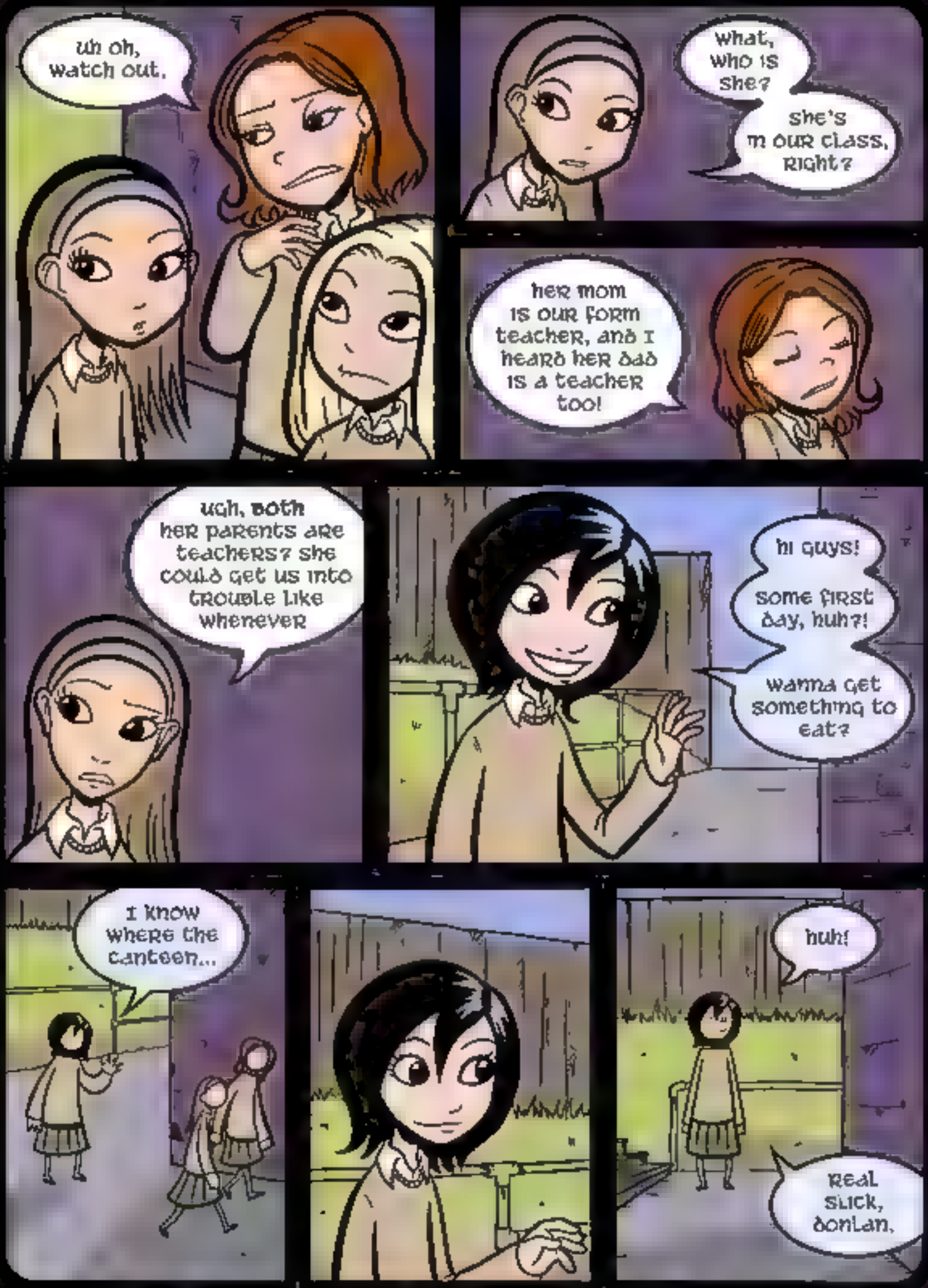

If coyote promised no harm would come to you, you can be certain he will make sure of it.
It should only be a casual meeting anyway, and it will do you good to hear their side of the story.
until then you will have lessons with parley and andrew each week.
goodbye.
you shouldn't eavesdrop, mort
ahh! how did you know?!

Gunnerkrigg Court

Chapter 18:

51




uh oh, watch out.
what, who is she?
she's in our class, right?
her mom is our form teacher, and I heard her dad is a teacher too!
ugh, both her parents are teachers? she could get us into trouble like whenever
hi guys! some first day, huh?! wanna get something to eat?
I know where the canteen...
huh!
real slick, donlan.


hi, mum!
hi, dad!
katja! antimony! hello!
I was wonderin' if you guys...
waaait... what's going on here?
nothing!
I uh... was wondering if you knew someplace I could use as a workshop
I wanna try building a robot.

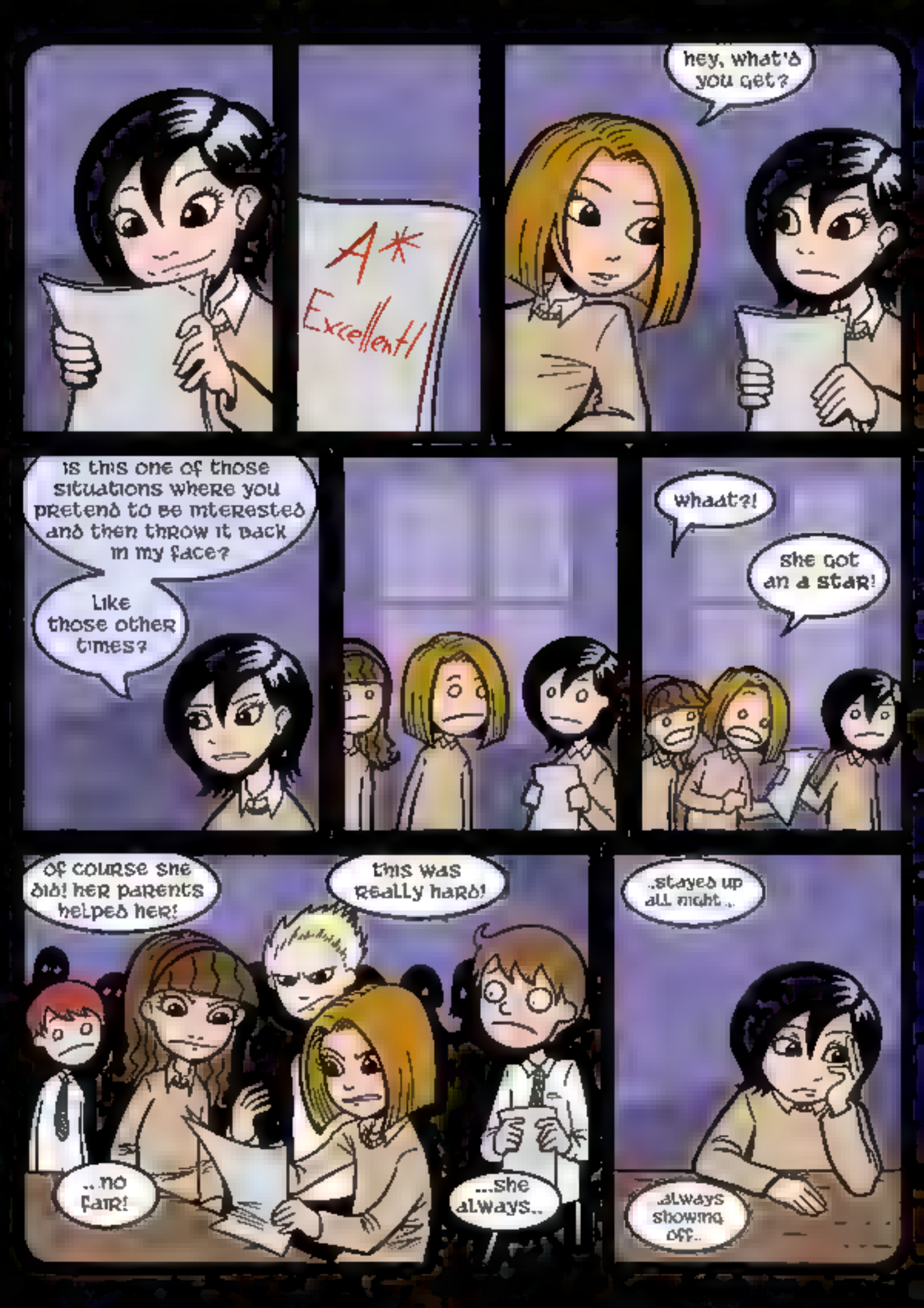

oh... a-a robot?
well, give me a moment
so! outgrown the science labs already, eh?
yeah. it's annoying that I can't leave the labs set up how I want.
here we are.
this key unlocks my old unit down by the west canals it's empty now, but there is plenty of space
th-the address is on the keyring. it's not hard to get to.
that's perfect! thanks, mum!


oh. I wish I could go with them
you could always ask.
no.
no. let them figure it out.
our time has passed.
well, I think there is some life left in us yet


yeah, I guess you could say I've known him my whole life.
of course, he was uncle jimmy before he was mister eglamore.


uncle jimmy?
haha! I know, right?
has he..
"GOONIES"
has he ever mentioned a woman?
huh. you know, I don't think he has.
MP3
I don't remember him ever saying anything about a girlfriend, or a lady he likes or anything.
I think there might be something going on between him and miss jones.
ha! there better not be, or I'd have to beat her up!


you might have some trouble there, dearest. you see, I also think jones is a robot
whaaaa...
come on! first off, a human looking robot is called an "android"
and second, there is no way you could make an android that looks that good.
we have seen stranger
remember that cursed teapot?
yeahhhhh but that was...
I don't even know what that was about...
but a totally human looking android...
nah.
just . nah
Scratch
you're thinking about making one, aren't you?


A*
Excellent!
hey, what'd you get?
is this one of those situations where you pretend to be interested and then throw it back in my face?
like those other times?
whaat?!
she got an a star!
of course she did! her parents helped her!
this was really hard!
..no fair!
...she always..
..stayed up all night..
..always showing off..


the human body is essentially a biological machine. It relies on contractile tissue for movement.
most of our robots have ultra high torque actuators in their joints that's how they move
so their point of locomotion is in their joints? that's not quite how muscles work.
haw! look at that!
hey! nice teddy!
Born to Heckle
are you off to nursery?
well, maybe hydraulics are closer to how... how a muscle.
hey you
carrot top!
are you okay, kat?
those guys over there are being jerks
hey! shut up!
oooooh
haha!


bah those buffoons!
insult you, would they..
perhaps you might scare them away for us
my pleasure!
!
ararararararar!
ahhh!
I absolutely did not expect thiiis!
are you allowed to let him do that?!
oh, I sincerely doubt it


ahahaha! how hilarious it is to watch humans running!
TROT
why thank you, Reynaraine
and I didn't even have to issue you a command.
well..
one is allowed to defend one's own honour.
tram's here.


ROBOT!
MU...ANNIE! KAT!
DID YOU FIND THE PLACE OKAY?
YES! SHADOW 2 IS ALREADY INSIDE.
ZZZIP
THERE IS NOBODY AROUND FOR QUITE A WAY. THE PLACE IS FAIRLY DESERTED.
JUST LIKE THE REST OF THE COURT, THEN.
HAHAA! CHECK THIS OUT THIS IS AWESOME!
YAY!


not many people would get excited by a large, empty room.
It may be empty but it's full of potential!
robot, I'm gonna make you the best new body!
ah! thank you so much!
hey, look what I found over here
huh! mum didn't give me a key for this.
perhaps reynardine ..
could smash the lock!
could pick the lock properly
aw.


tension wrench, rake, then diamond, just as I showed you.
RAS RAS
hahaa! watch, as human technology crumbles before me!
hmm, an ominous passage that plunges into an inky blackness, sealed behind lock and chain
you know what this means.
we must see where it leads!
damn straight!
it wasn't so hard. you see, the key was to remain focused.
that's pretty neat, Reynardine


Looks like it keeps on going down
and I didn't bring a light.
perhaps we can use this...
Fwoosh
you gotta let me examine that thing one day, annie. figure out how it burns some things and not others.
It behaves that way because she wills it so.
that's how a blinker stone works!
that doesn't explain anything!
it explains enough. doesn't it?
ugh! that's a terrible ethic!
I felt around a little and it looks like the coast is clear.
thank you, shadow 2.


soon
oh, we got to the bottom, finally.
this room must be very large. I can't see the walls or the ceiling.
I saw a plug on the end of this cable near the entrance, maybe it leads to...
ah yes, a flood light
I guess my mum set these up when she still worked here.
If you stay here with Reynardine and Robot, Shadow 2 and I will nip back and plug them in.
won't be long!

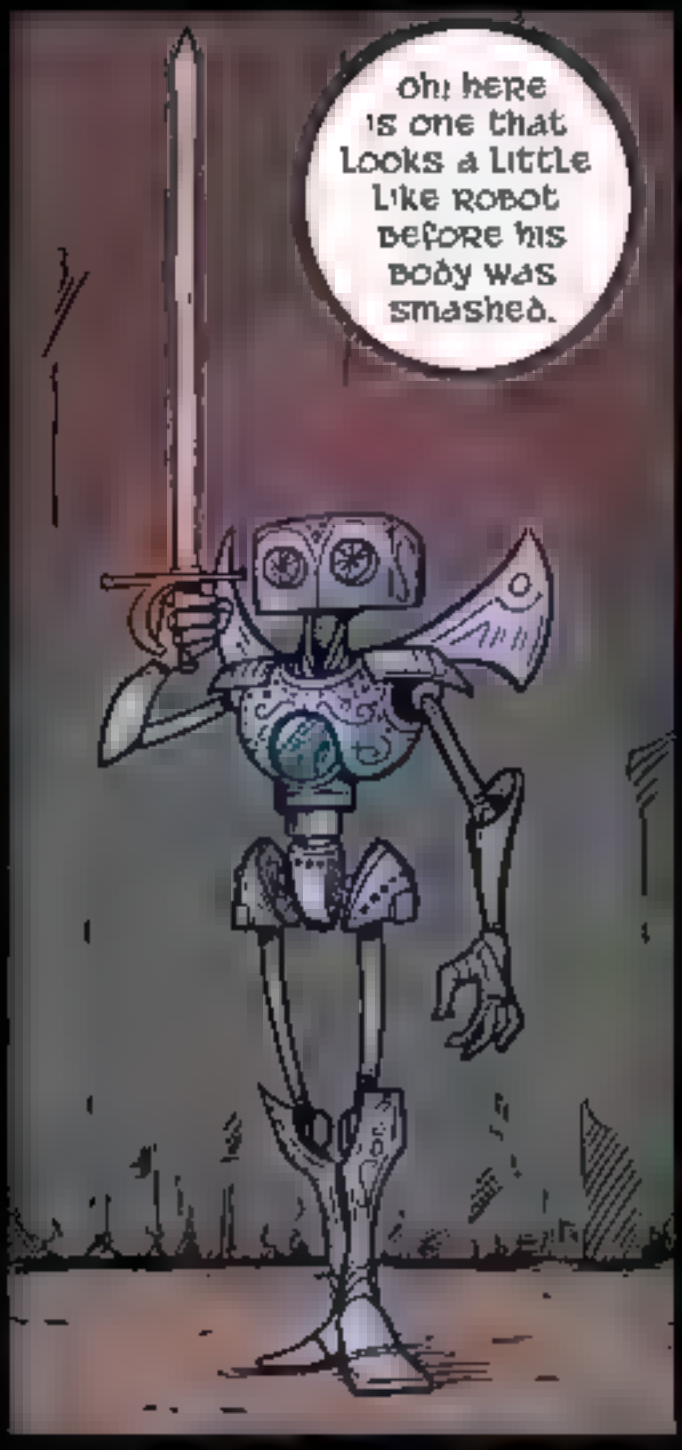

heyyy ren-ar-deeen!
what is it?
that was pretty cute how you got all defensive about annie before
you were all "insult you would they?!"
wh... no I wasn't! I said "us."
insult us, would they
no you didn't
yes I did!
hehe, okay then. whatever you say.
..
you are a good friend to her, katerina.
huh?
how is she doing in her studies?
does she have many other friends?
has anyone been giving her trouble?
has a boy caught her eye?


woah woah, where did all this come from? are you like her dad in disguise now?
ugh. perish the thought I was only curious.
I assumed you would know her best, since you spend so much time together.
all she talks about is you.
this is a set up for another lewd joke, isn't it? what do you care?
forget it.
huh! you're being serious aren't you?
I said forget it.
you should stay as a wolf more often, dude. you're much nicer this way
well, the mind is nothing but a plaything of the body, correct?
what?
CHACK


Sniff
Sniff
gkk
h-hey, mum, are you okay?
what's going on?
ah, katja. is nothing, just a little sniffle.
I might be getting a cold.
anyway, I have some news!
a new girl will be joining our class on monday.
I think you should get to know her.
STUDENT TRANS
NAME: Antimony Carver
maybe you can become friends.


aIIIeeeeee!
kat!
kat are you okay what happened?!
hahaha!
look at 'em all!
have you ever seen anything like it?!

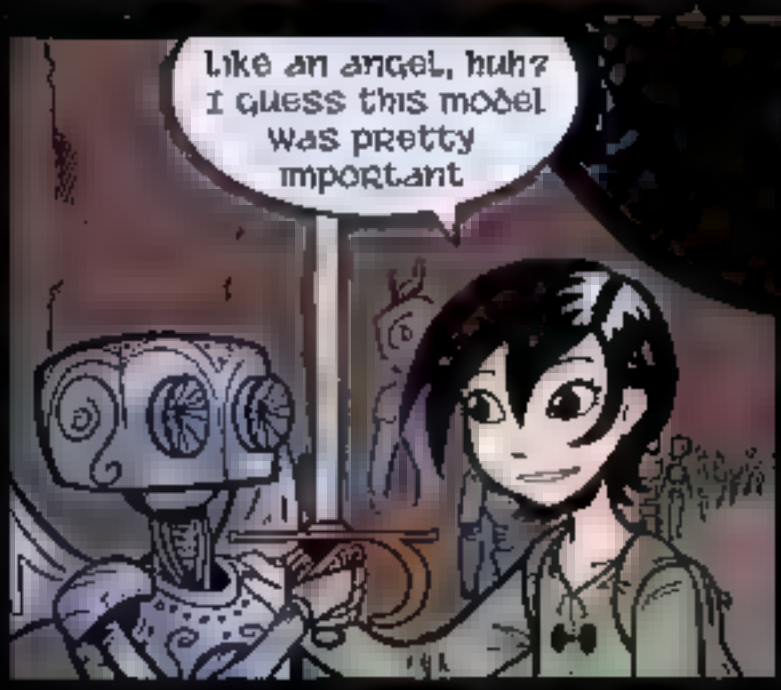

I've never seen robots as elaborate as these before!
they're gorgeous!
some of them even look like they might be early designs for existing models.
here's an h model, but look how super fancy it is!
and the hands on this one are so delicate!
and this one...
maybe we can put a blanket over it.

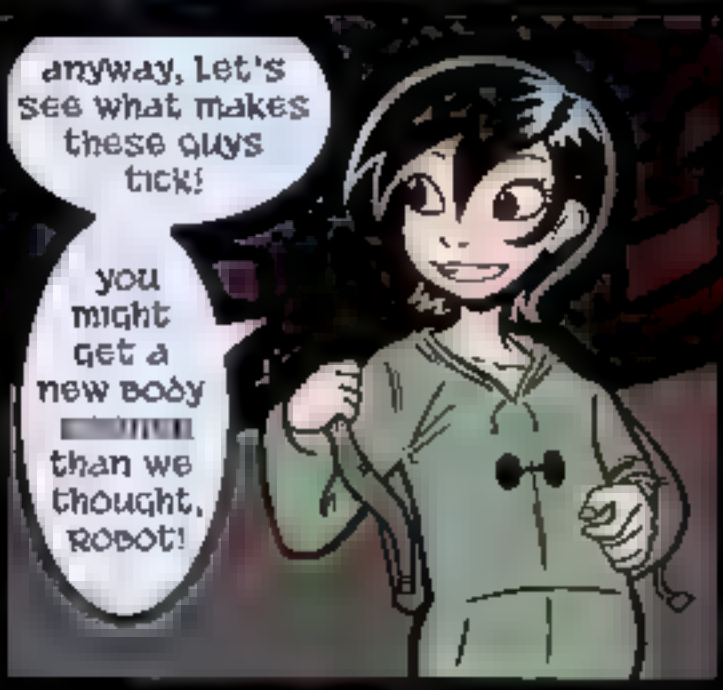

oh! here is one that looks a little like robot before his body was smashed.


very handsome! I bet you got all the girlbots back in the day, huh!
ah! oh well...


you were s13, right, robot?
S1
looks like this was your original design.

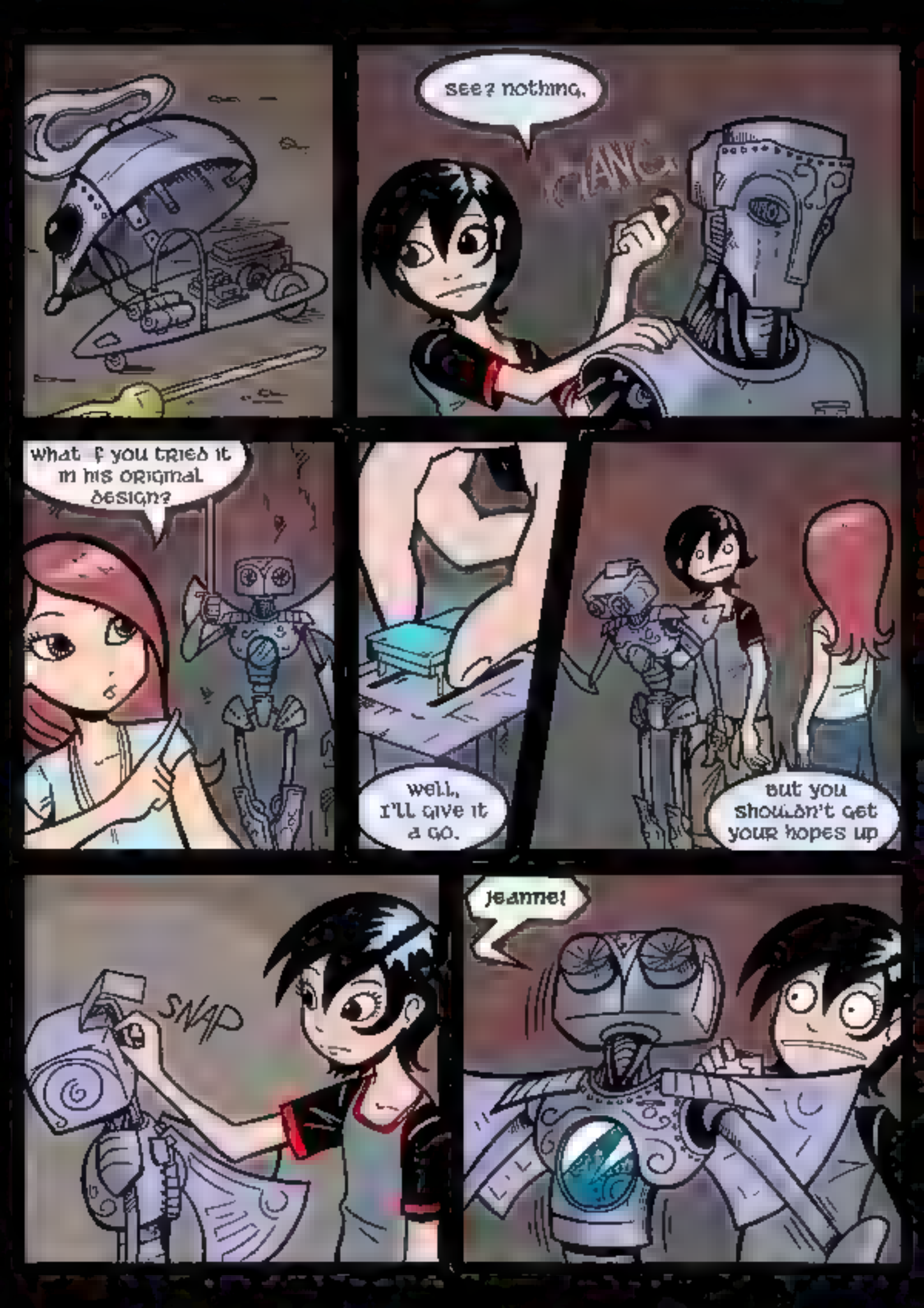

what does the s stand for?
seraph, as I recall.

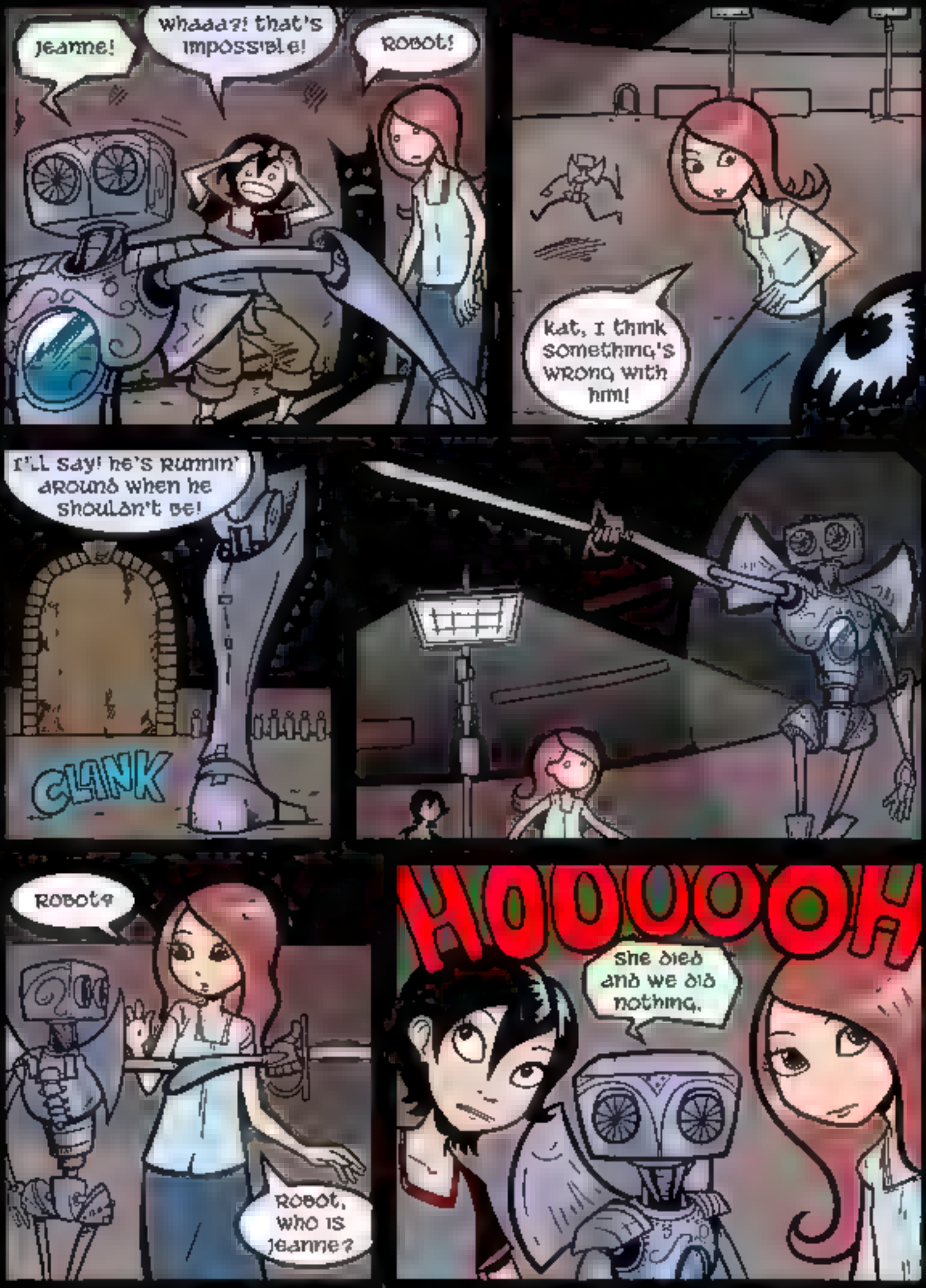

like an angel, huh? I guess this model was pretty important


anyway, let's see what makes these guys tick!
you might get a new body [redacted] than we thought, robot!

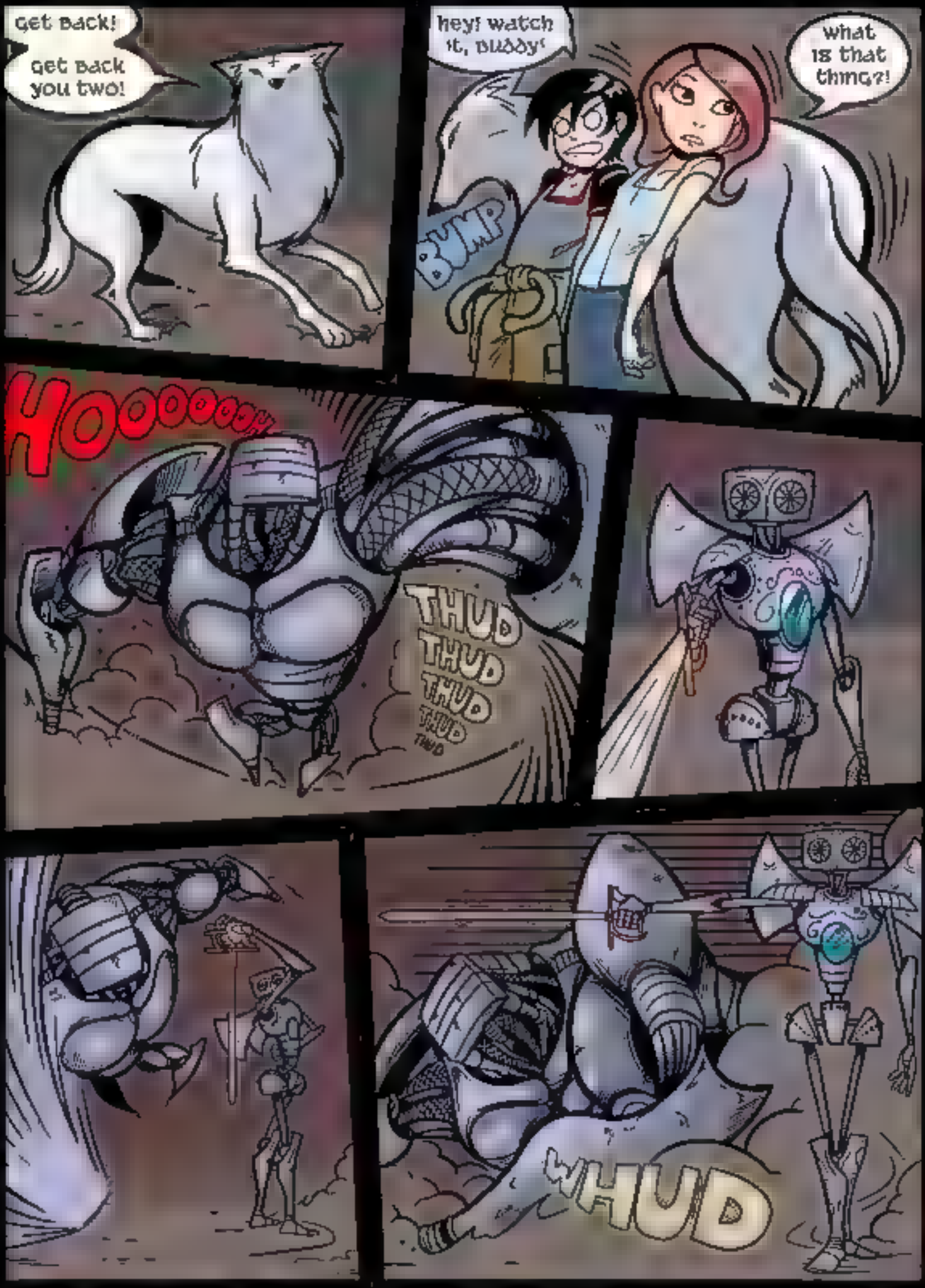

SKITTER
haha! whooo!
IZZZZIP!
Sniff
D
no!
no no no!
useless! they're all useless!
there's no drive system!
no kinetic alternator!
there isn't even a power source!
there are no electrically driven components at all!
all these beautiful, mechanically sound machines, and they don't do anything!


how disappointing.
my mum must have realised they were useless too and left them down here.
wonder who made them...
perhaps they work through means you are unfamiliar with?
you should try robot's cpu in one of them.
it wouldn't work. I mean, there's a cpu slot, but no power or anything
you made robot in year 7, right? so you can see these are pretty much just giant, poseable action figures.
actually, all I did was put his limbs and head on to his body and switch him on.
I don't have the first idea how to make a robot.

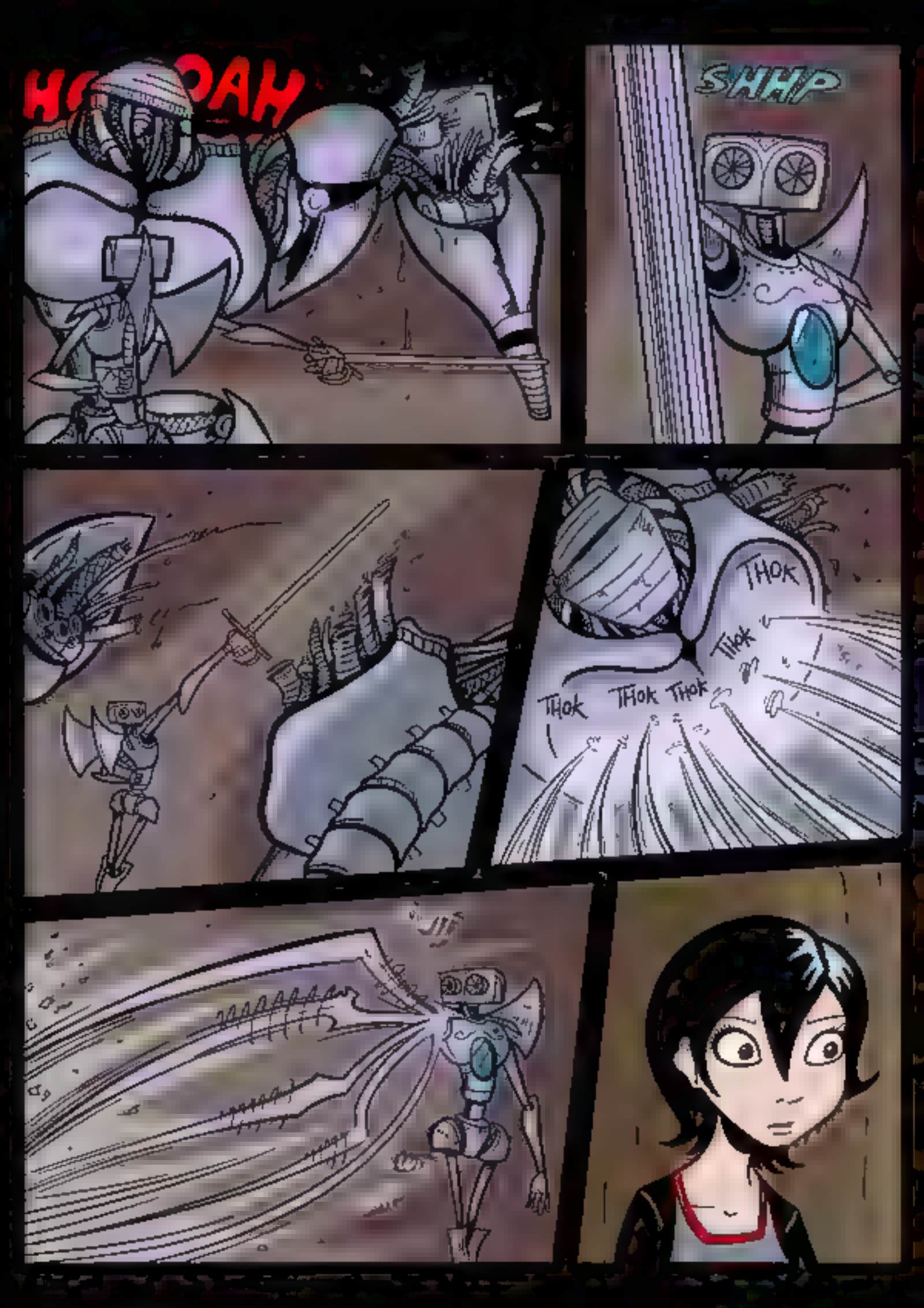

see? nothing.
CLANG
what if you tried it in his original design?
well, I'll give it a go.
but you shouldn't get your hopes up
SNAP
jeanne!


Jeanne!
Whaaa?! that's impossible!
Robot!
Kat, I think something's wrong with him!
I'll say! he's runnin' around when he shouldn't be!
CLANK
Robot?
Robot, who is Jeanne?
HOOOOOH
She died and we did nothing.


D
CRACK
WHAM
HOOOOH


get back!
get back you two!
hey! watch it, buddy!
what is that thing?!
BUMP
HOOOOOOY!
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
WHUD

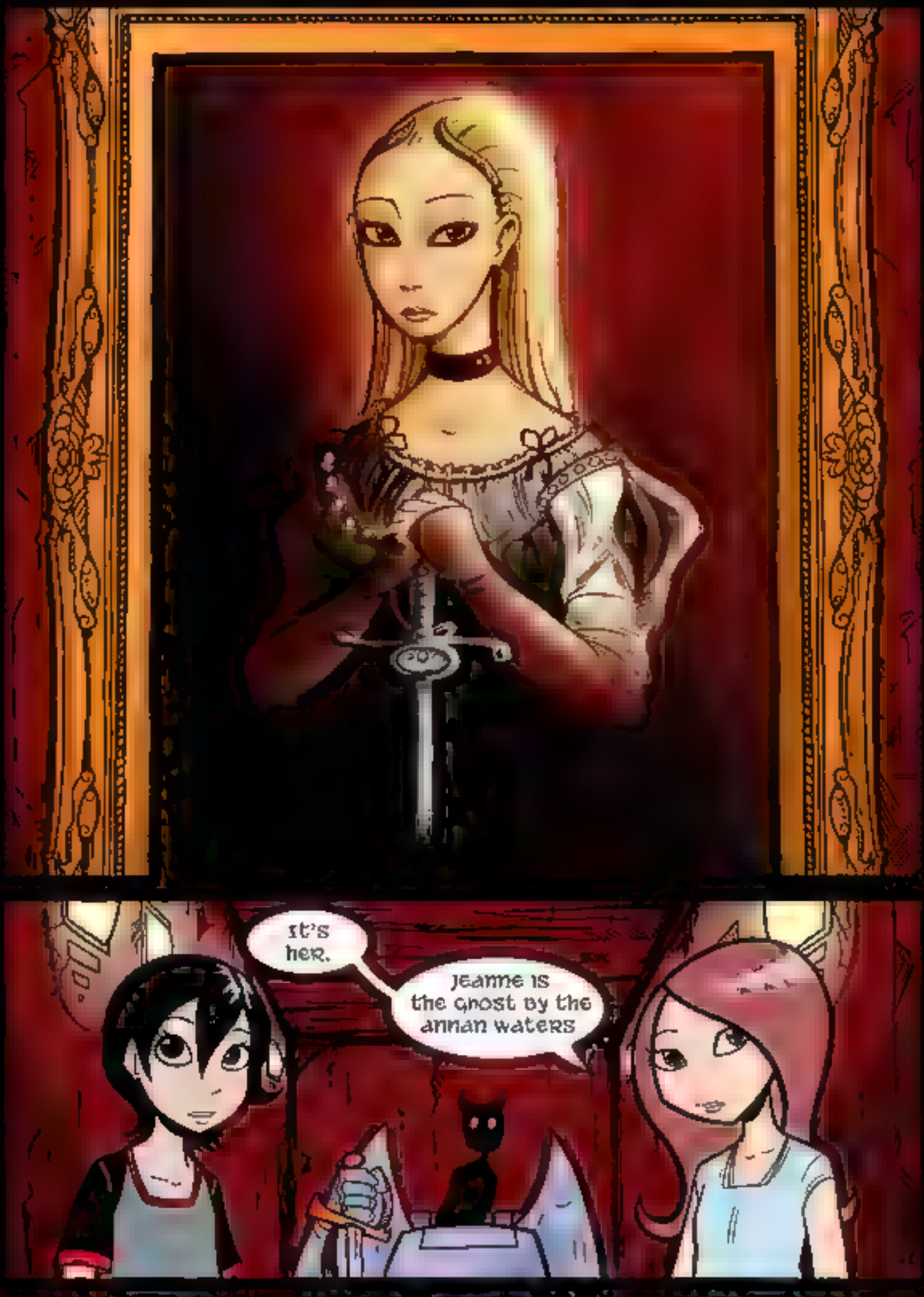

you will pay for what you did to her.
but you will never be forgiven
WRR
CHACK
NOOOOOOH
CLANG
TING
KLANG
SNICK


SHHP
THOK
THOK
THOK THOK THOK


I dunno what's goin' on, but this isn't a fair fight.
you noticed it too?
noticed what?
this so called "fight" is scripted.
CHACK
a morbid play acted out by these machines.


SMASH
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
now they're all moving!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP


SLASH
WHAM
he's going into that hole!
Let's follow him
hang on, let me get robot's mouse body
there's a light up ahead.


it's her.
Jeanne is the ghost by the annan waters


annie, she's beautiful!
her features have withered over time, but it's definitely her
this must be the guy that made the robots "diego"
Diego
a coward's shrine made in tribute to a woman he loved from afar
I didn't take you for an expert on the human condition, reynaraine
we know nothing of this diego
perhaps not, but do you think a woman like that could ever feel anything other than pity for such a runt of a man?
o-oh my god! that's the worst thing in the world to say!
ah, then I must be mistaken, I'm sure.


What else can you tell us?
well, you see how uneasy the girl is in her finery.
how she clutches the sword in comfort.
a soldier perhaps?
and the mechanical monster outside
a representation of someone involved in her death?
for all his technical wonders, this diego was unable to save her.
so he fabricated this contrivance, this fantasy of his, and squirreled it away beneath the ground.
look well, girls.
know that this is all that is left of a man's heart
this tiny, stone room
you called him a coward.
he admitted as much himself
when you asked this contraption "who is jeanne?" it replied.
she died and we did nothing.


hey, see if robot is okay!
oh yeah.
anyway, you make this guy sound kinda crummy, reynardine.
what if jeanne's ghost is by the river, right? what if she died by falling off the bridge?
and diego made those robot birds to save anyone else who falls!
so he did some good!
he might have even saved your life, annie!
I'm not sure. If she died in a simple accident, why is she still down there?
JOE COOL
maybe everything that dies down there has to stay?
but those fairies...
hey, you okay in there?
I... that monster out there. I had such a hatred for it I could not
ah...
what a beautiful lady.


say, robot, who looks after you guys? like, who fixes you when you break?
nobody.
the court robots have always maintained themselves
huh! I guess when diego died you couldn't make more of yourselves, so you changed to simpler designs.
and these old models are so complex I can't figure them out
one thing's for sure; these things don't use servos or hydraulics or anything like that.
some kind of superfast reaction memory polymer?
they could be powered by etheric means.
you mean like magic?
come on, man, just because something isn't explained yet doesn't make it magic.


anyway I know I'll figure it out eventually!
CRACK
thank you for your help, kat. we couldn't do any of this without you.
now we know jeanne's name.
yeah! thanks kat!
thank you!
aw I didn't do anything. we work together, right?
we all chipped in.
even you, mooby.
har har
and now we have a place to work, we can really get started on a new body for robot!
so I was thinking more about androids ..


not likely, miss! she's always swotting in the study hall. hahaha!
...
heh.
BRRING
antimony!
wait for me!

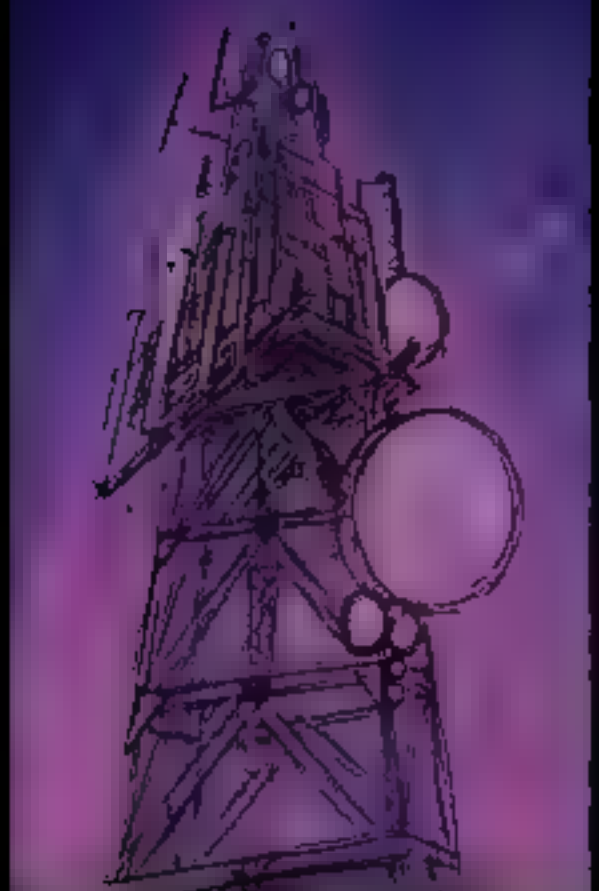

CLICK
ah, I think I never get it!
just to get one of those robots to move. I wish I could see it!
you'll figure it out, amy.
is strange. such similar designs to certain court robots, but the technology is very different
what do you think?
yikes! don't ask me! I'm two short planks compared to you.
oh now! you and me are smart on different things! and when we work together, we are unstoppable!


is so sad. all those figures standing there like they waiting for something.
yeah...
and you are waiting too. you miss him.
yeah yeah. 'im and 'is stupid training
he's away so often
he does it for you, you know
he doesn't hafta do anything.
just be here.
sides, sometimes I think sonny misses jim more than I do.
hahaha! those boys, always so close! I think you might be right!

Gunnerkrigg Court

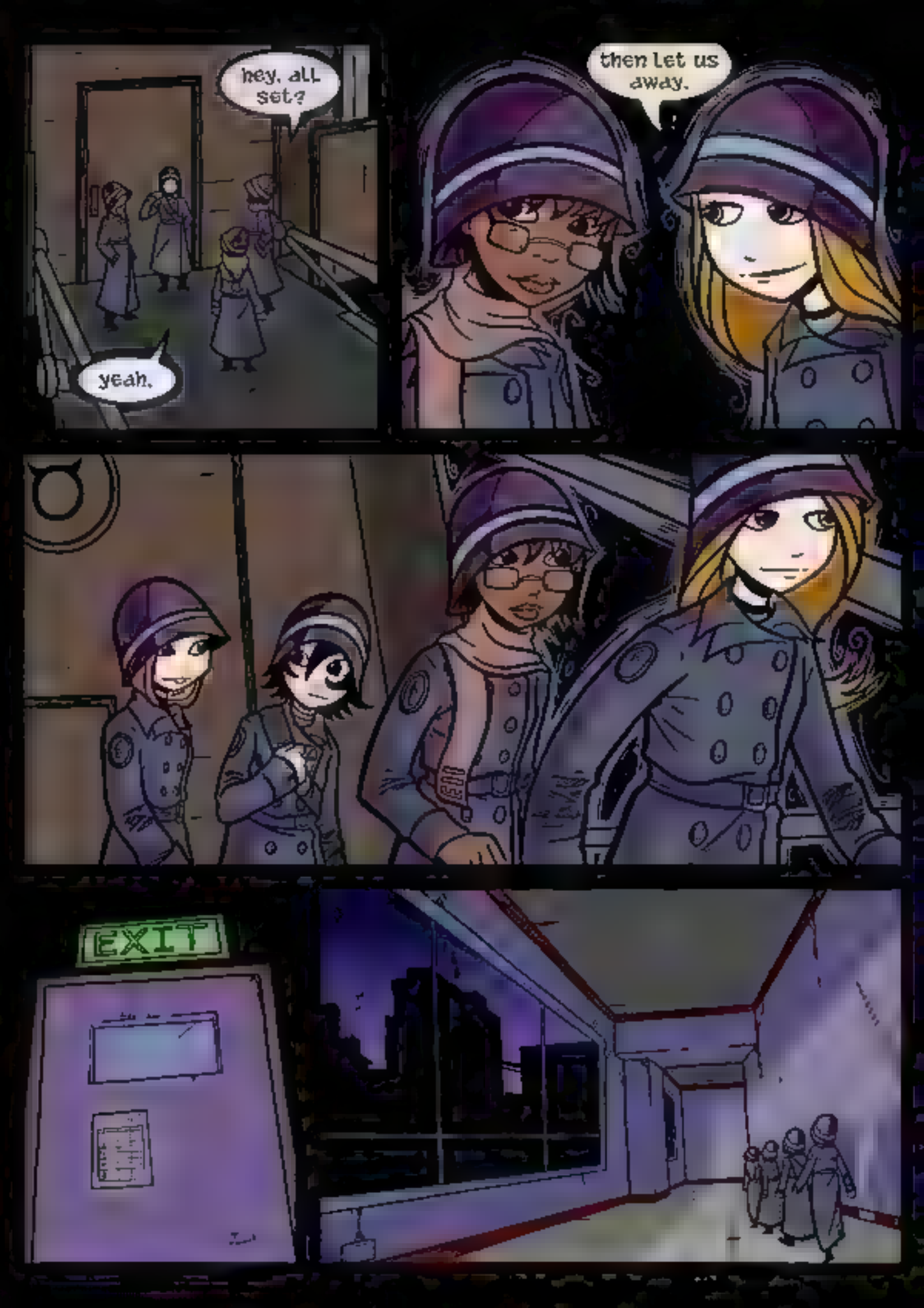
Chapter 19:

Power Station




there's no need to worry, kat you and I have snuck out before.
yeah but now there will be boys there!
you see the boys almost every day in class.
I know I know, but this is different seeing them after we should be in bed and all...
we don't have to go if you don't want.
no, no, this has been planned for ages, and I can get us all past the security system.
I mean that's the only reason we were invited, right?


Reynardine tried to insist on being a chaperone when he heard some of the boys would be there
ahaha! aww, really? he can be pretty sweet sometimes. he's just a big ol' softie, isn't he?
oh yeah...
a big old softie that tried to kill me, yes.
TAP
TAP-TAP
there's the signal.
let's do this!


hey, all set?
yeah.
then let us away.
EXIT


the motion detectors at the dorm entrance are digital, so I can change them real easy.
all I do is alter the energy wavelength that sets them off.
1000-1001 micrometers usually does it.
humans only emit between like 9 and 10 microns.
all clear




hey, you made it
I'm sure there was never a doubt
hi, john
h-hi, margo.
easy now, romeo.
shut it, matt.
this here is jack, from qs. he found it.
aright
so where is it?
ROOF ACCESS
right this way.


there's a wall around the whole compound.
this building has the best view cos it's right next to the artifical lake
what are they doing over there?
they're gearin' up for an experiment.
what kind of experiment?
you'll know as much as I do when you see it

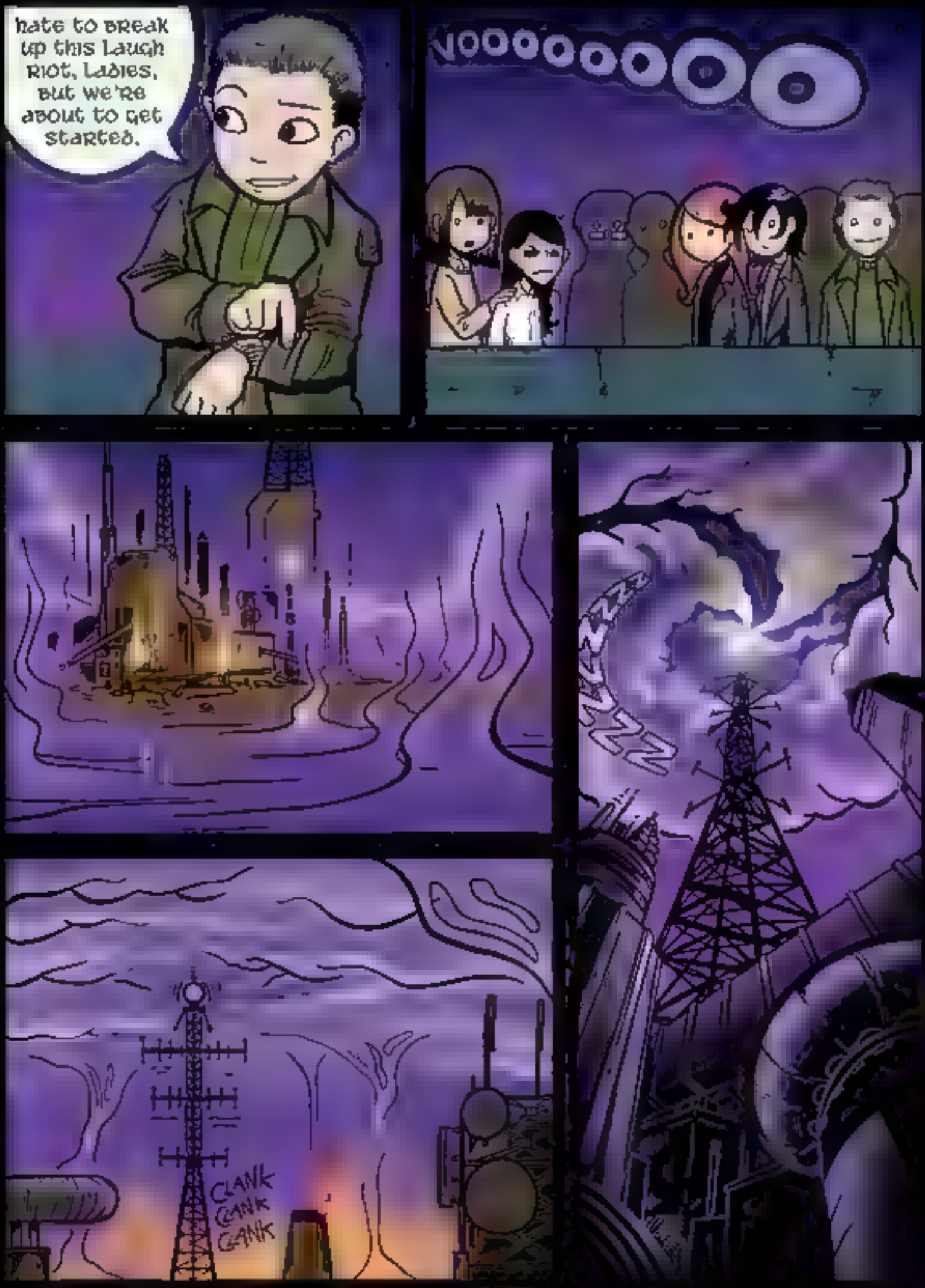

so how did you find this place, jack?
aw, there's way too much stuff to see around the court
I go out exploring all the time
I just fiddle with the dorm's motion detectors and it's easy to slip away
hey, that's what I did too.
oh aye?
wow, I'm surprised you guys aren't fighting.
differences can be set aside for one evening, I think.
yeah, I'm cool.


so, kat, you're not going to be telling your mum and dad about this, are you?
jeez, willie, why would i want to do that?
I'd get in trouble too.
yeah man, besides, don't forget who janet's dad is.
therefore, I recommend remaining squarely in my good books.
oof! ha!
CLONK
huh?
WHAM
oh no!
huf!
bloomm' door.
god dammit
damn mit!


hey!
uh...
they're what?!
ger off don't touch 'er what are you doin' I-I'll bust you up real bad!


zimmy...
carver! what's goin' on?! I thought it wuz night time!
it is. we came to look at the power station.
yuh... yer not uspposed to be up at night! I's allowed but you en't!
I could get you all in big trouble if you try anyfing!
hey!
what?!
no no, it's okay, zimmy, nobody is going to try anything...
cześć, annie.
cześć, gamma.
why are you here, zimmy?
that... fing out there. it's screwin' with my head. finally found it.

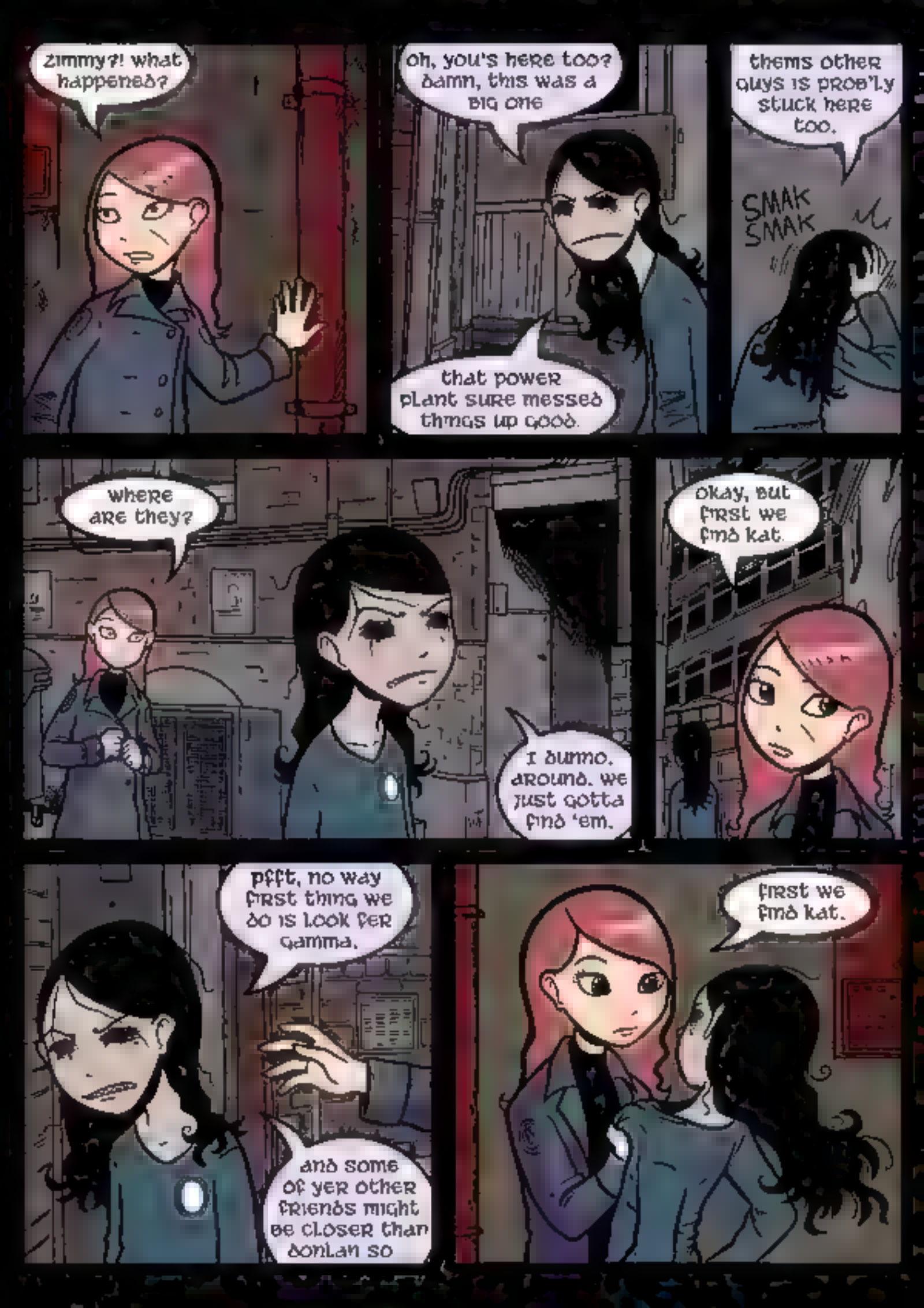

hi, are you in year 9? I like your hair
gamma doesn't speak english
oh...
she's 14 but still in year 8 like us, you got a problem with that?!
!
ugh, don't worry about it, margo. zimmy's always like this.
<so...so they all think I am stupid and ugly?>
<no, why you think that?>
<zimmy translates for me.>


hate to break up this Laugh Riot, Ladies, but we're about to get started.
VOOOOOOOOO
ZZZZ
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK


WOW!
I bet that's how the clouds are forming.
hey Look, the water in the Lake is going down.


it shot some kind of beam into the horizon.
there must be a receiving station somewhere farther into the court!
huf
huf
oh, by the way, guys
CLICK
there's something else I probably should have mentioned. .
ahhh!
aieee!
eeek!
ahhh!
BOOSH


ahahaha!
you jerk ass.
say, your friend over there doesn't look too well.
wuh
it..
it ain't working!
it ain't working!
crap.


zimmy?! what happened?
oh, you's here too? damn, this was a big one
that power plant sure messed things up good.
thems other guys is prob'ly stuck here too.
SMAK SMAK
where are they?
I dunno. around. we just gotta find 'em.
okay, but first we find kat.
pfft, no way first thing we do is look for gamma.
and some of yer other friends might be closer than donlan so
first we find kat.


fine!
but yer gonna have ta take gamma's place.
doing what?
gettin' ridda these guys.
who are all these people?
they ain't people, they're nobodies
an-an' I ain't goin nowhere 'less you clear a path.


jus' .. jus' get ridda them, like gamma does.
um...
good. let's get gom'
do you see these people around all the time?
yeah, it can be hard to tell who's real and who am't.
but these... things don't have faces.
so? sometimes real people don't neither

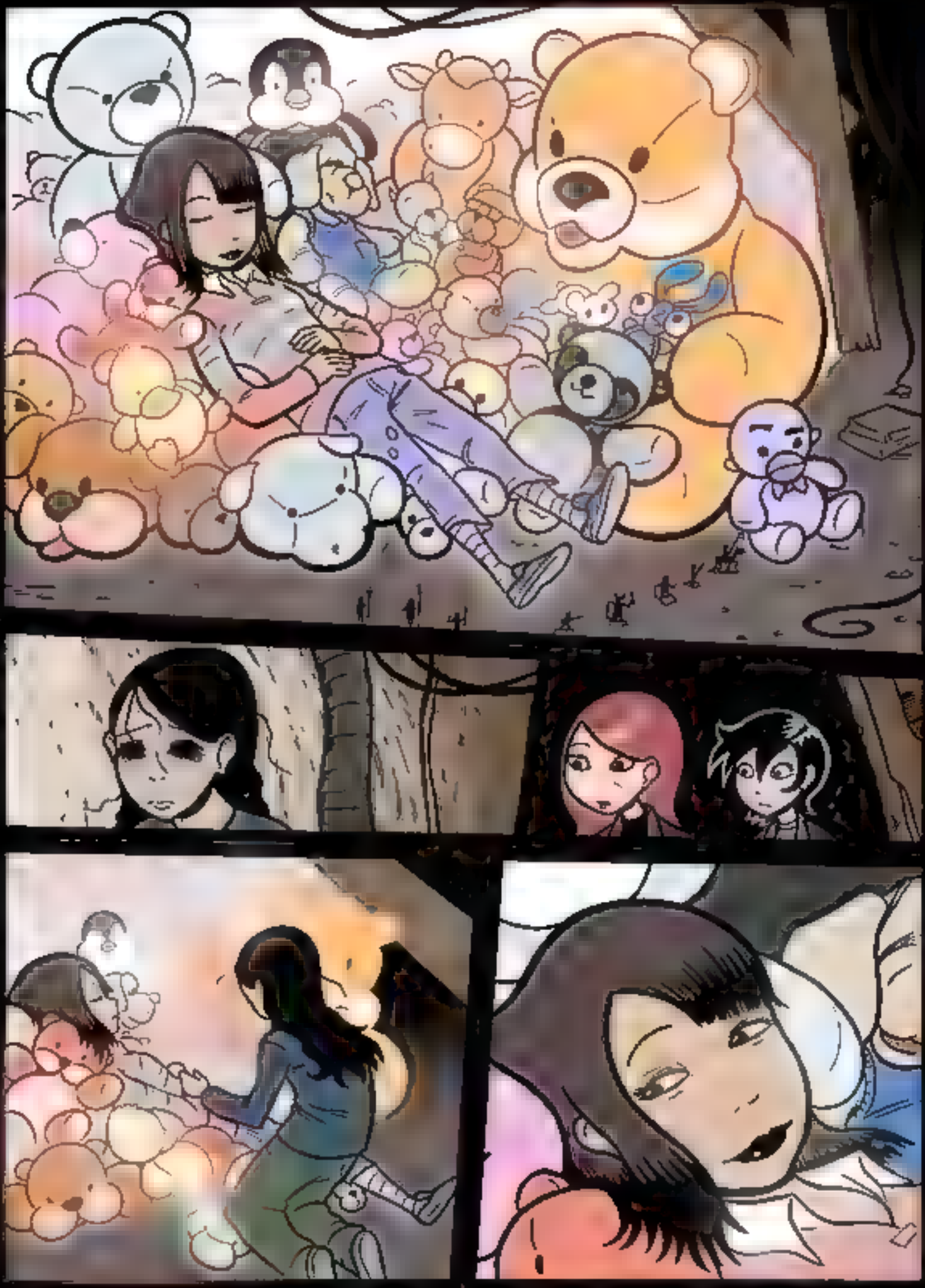

GOP
GOP
GOP
how interesting.
GOP
glad yer havin' fun
you have a strange gift, zimmy have you thought about controlling it?
a gift?
controllin' it?!
you think I want to be like this?!

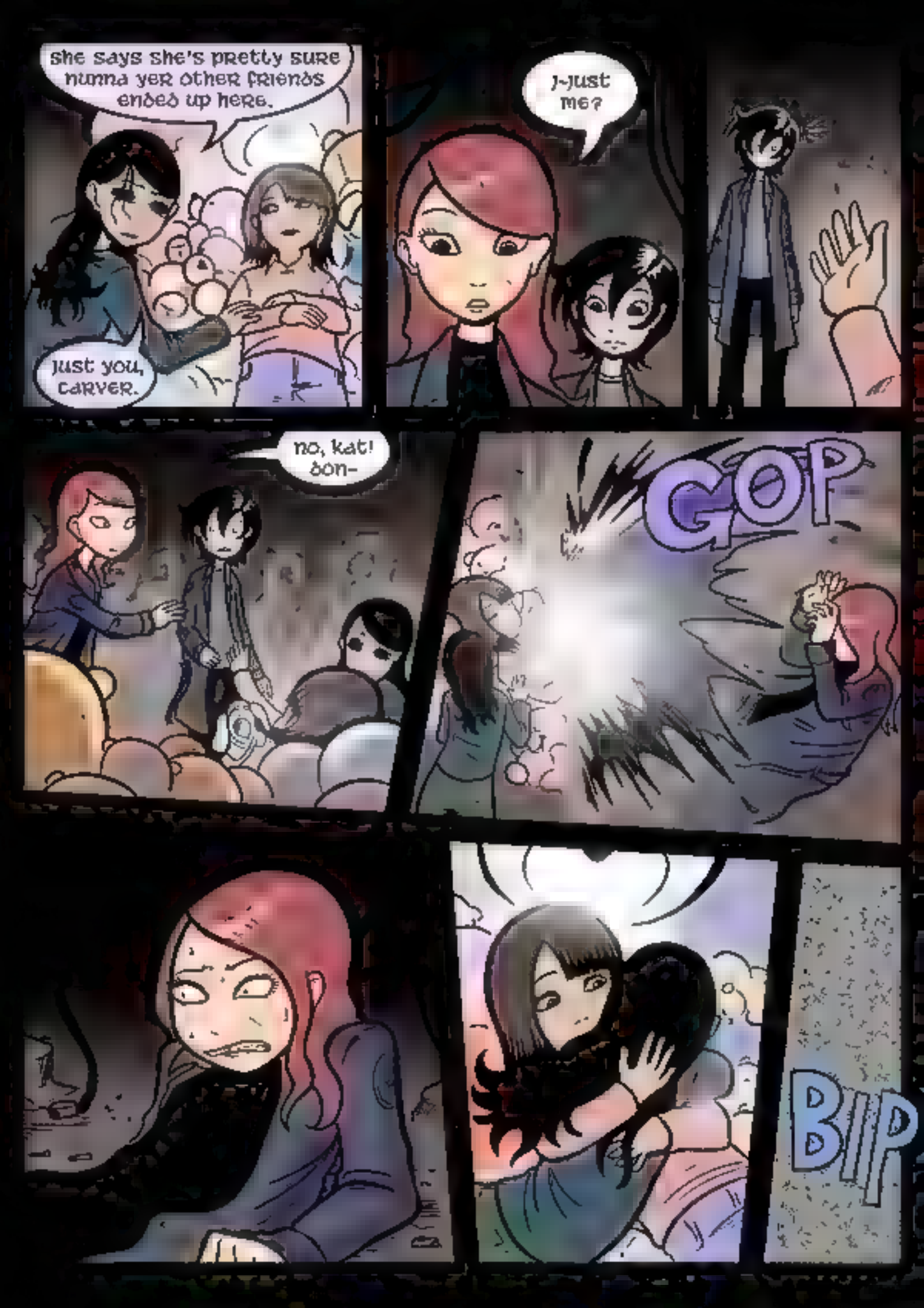

you think I can't turn all this off cos I's lazy?!
you think I want to be.
I-like this...
ah.. huh-huh huuuh
Guh-Gamma...
she's the only reason I'm still alive
you care about her a lot, don't you?
care about 'er?
I love her!
I'd kill everyone in the world and then myself if she wanted it!
KICK


that's pretty sweet except for the part where you kill everyone.
kat!
hey.
I heard you guys miles away.
despite my silky smooth entrance, I'm like five minutes from flippin' out if we don't get out of here, annie.
then we leave. where do we find gamma?
sniff
ain't far


I thought the rain would have helped you, like it did before.
huh. I guess it didn't cos the rain was fake
like a shower. them's don't help neither.
you seem okay right now considering gamma isn't around.
that's cos she's standin' right next to me.
in real life, I mean
we's still on that roof.
CKRICK
CRACK
I ain't never gonna be able to leave this damn place.
I'll die here one day.


CRACK
this used to be a toy shop.
Long time ago.
then they came an' gutted it
now it's miniskirts an' pushup bras, heh
It took 'em a while to clear out the stock, see
an' gamma an' me used to sneak in at night.
she always remembers it.
so when we get split up, we meet back here




she says she's pretty sure nunna yer other friends ended up here.
just you, carver.
j-just me?
no, kat! son-
GOP
BIP


haha, oh man!
I'm soaked!
annie?
haha!
you look kinda pale...
are you okay?
kat...
???
it's only as real as you let it be.


what the hell?!
...
oh. you was there too, huh?
well, sucks to be you, mate.
huh?
what was that about?


jeez, what a freak.
she's m chester, right? I heard they are all a bunch of weirdos.
oh man, look at the time. we better hit the road.
uh... I-uh, I mean, it was- I had a... a, you know...
m-me too!
see ya, jack.
yeah... yeah.
say, where are willie and janet?
we are here!
we were not doing anything!


pretty weird night.
yes. more questions as to what this place really is.
heh.
and I think I might know someone who would be willing to give some answers.